

Policy & Resources Committee - For Information

Date:	16 February 2016
Title:	CCTV
Purpose of the Report:	To provide a summary report for Q2 2015-16
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Background

This report is an extract from the CCTV Report received from South Oxfordshire District Council detailing the effectiveness of CCTV in deterring crime within the four towns in the district. This summary relates to the information for Thame. A full copy of the report can be emailed to Members on request.

Summary

Across South Oxfordshire, CCTV operators supported 572 incidents during the second quarter of 2015 – 16 (July - September 2015).

The operators also produced 32 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out 24 reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 42 arrests.

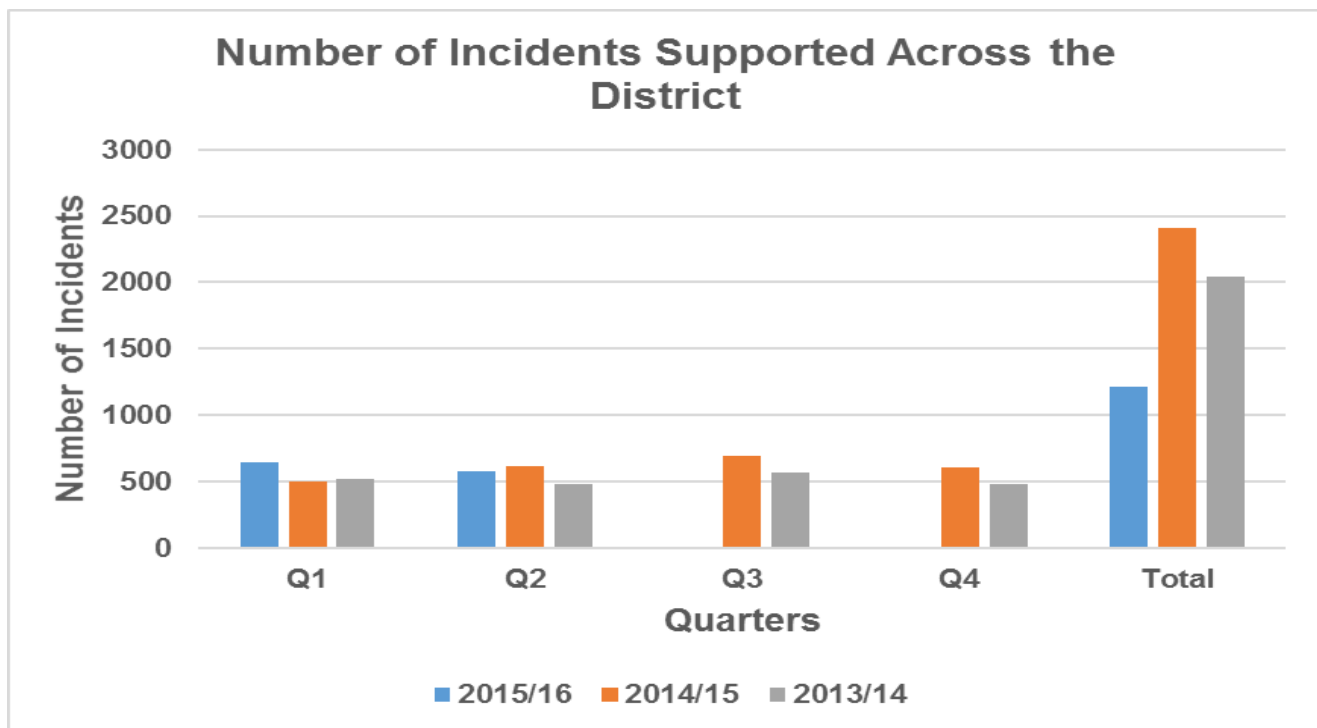
Thame Case Study Information

A male was reported to have hurled very unpleasant homophobic abuse at the staff of a local supermarket in town. Our operator was able to identify the male from the description given over the police radio and advise the police control centre of his whereabouts. The male continued to be unpleasant as officers arrived at the scene and an arrest was made.

Our operator was requested to monitor a car parked in the High Street. Officers were waiting out of sight in a car and wished to stop the car before it drove off. The operator alerted the police control centre when the occupants returned to the vehicle. The police car was used to block in the car and the officers were able to continue their enquiries. The car was removed for further police investigations.

Our operator heard of a dog in distress, reported over the police radio. The dog had been left in a car, parked kerbside in one of the main streets. Very soon after locating the dog from descriptions given, the operator was able to report to the police control centre that the owner had returned and that the dog appeared to be all in order. The registration was noted in case any further action was necessary.

Total Number of Incidents Supported Across the District				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2015/16	644	572		
2014/15	497	612	692	604
2013/14	521	479	564	478
2012/13	383	380	445	379
2011/12	547	492	532	413



Incidents broken down between the Towns:-

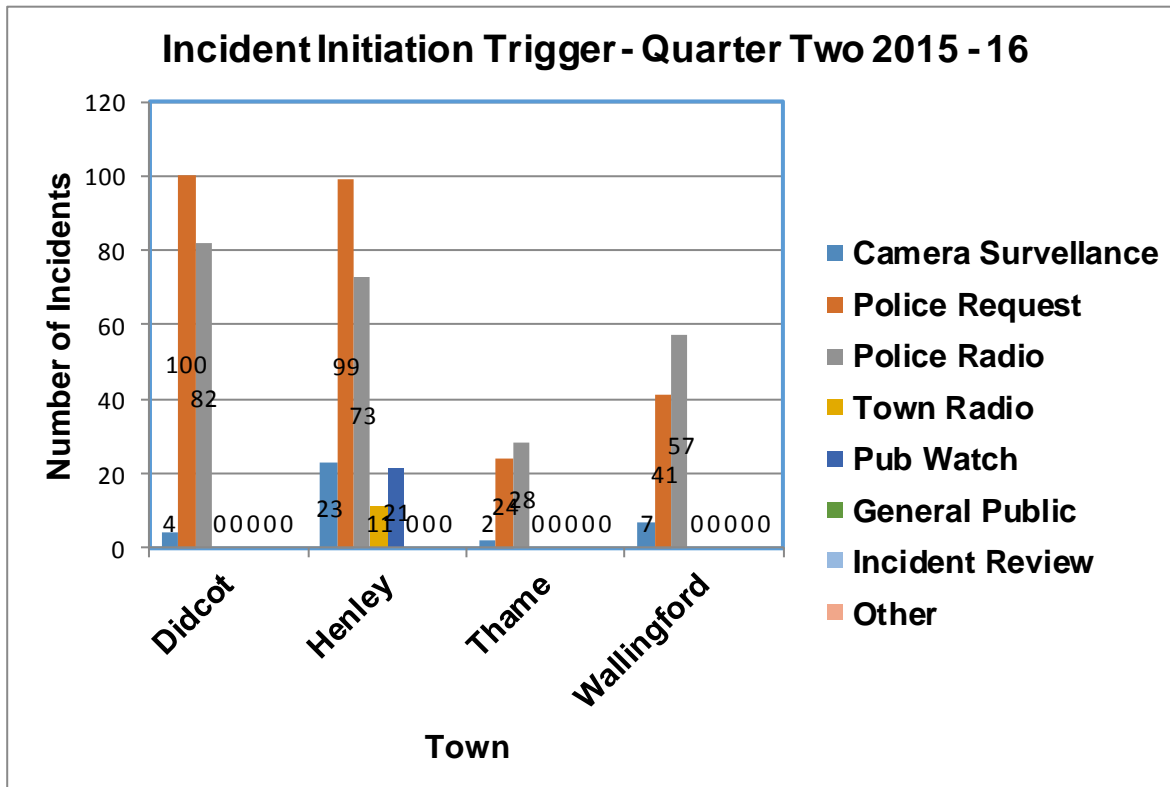
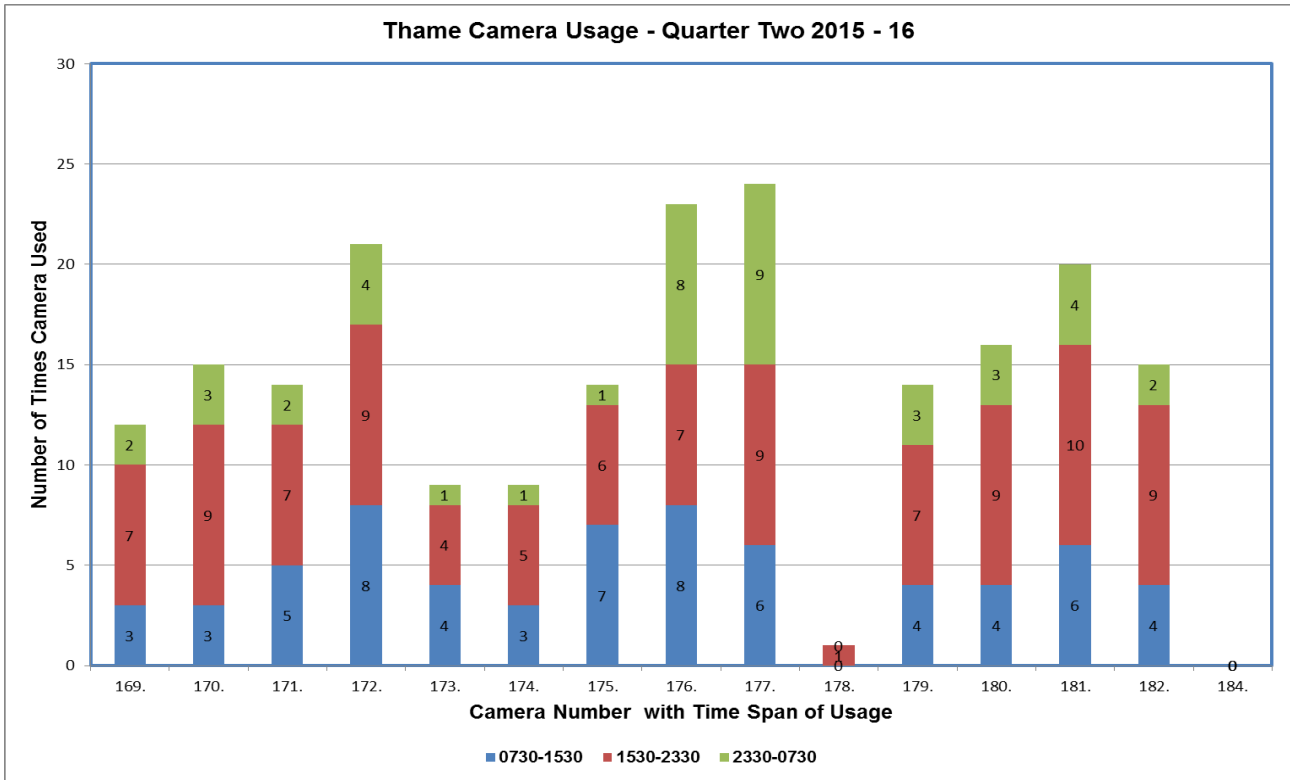
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015-16		
					Q1	Q2	
Didcot	603	436	569	701	209	189	
Henley	702	611	747	847	194	227	
Thame	346	257	376	455	133	54	
Wallingford	333	283	350	402	108	105	
District Total	1984	1587	2042	2405	644	572	

Camera Usage

The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

The number of times that each camera was used has been divided into three sections, covering a twenty four hour period.

It is worth noting that for the period 23:30 – 07:30, the vast majority of camera usage occurred during the 23:30 – 03:30 time slot.



Reviews and evidence packs

When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on ‘hotspot’ areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in ‘default’ positions which are agreed with the police as the areas most likely to experience problems.

CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under Data Protection Legislation and Subject Access Requests. The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of ‘non- stop road traffic collisions’ in which the complainant’s car has been damaged. All such requests are actioned and replies given. These are not included in the data below.

The chart on the next page shows the number of evidence packs the CCTV operators put together and the number of evidence reviews they undertook, as a result of formal written requests.

The evidence packs are the recordings and statements which the CCTV operators produce for police, solicitors and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Activity that monitors past footage, but does NOT result in an evidence pack being produced, is termed ‘a review’. This may be, for example, that the footage does not show an event clearly enough to warrant making a permanent DVD copy for evidential use.

One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of full trial at either magistrates or crown court.

