

Policy & Resources Committee - For Information

Date:	7 February 2017
Title:	CCTV
Purpose of the Report:	To provide a summary report for Q3 2016-17
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 492 incidents during the third quarter of 2016 – 17 (October – December 2016).

The operators also produced 33 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out 9 reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 45 arrests.

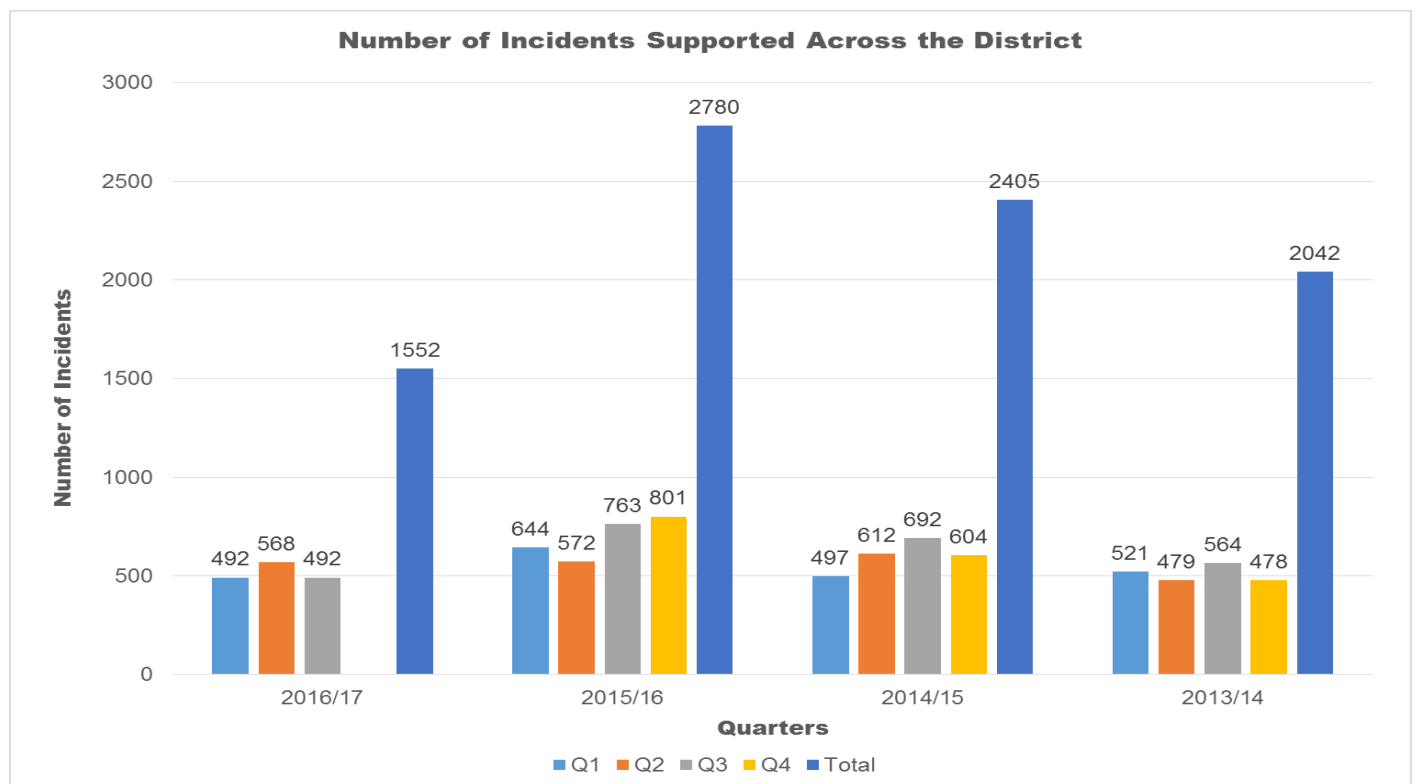
Thame Case Study Information

A request came in to our operator via the police control centre, to be on the lookout for a missing person who was considered to be at considerable risk and a long way from home. After monitoring around the town for some time, our operator was able to locate a woman who matched the description given and relay the information to the control centre. Officers were dispatched immediately and our operator was able to update officers on route. Having met up with the woman in a town centre location, the officers were able to confirm that she was the missing person in question and were able to begin the process of ensuring her safe return.

Via the police radio, our operator learned of a group of teenagers reported to be intimidating an elderly couple in the town centre. From descriptions given, our operator located a possible group in a car park. One of them tried to damage a 'Town Guide' sign. Our operator relayed the information to the police control centre and guided officers to the correct location. The two suspects involved in the intimidation, one of who had attempted to damage the sign, were both arrested.

Our operator was requested by the police to monitor the vicinity of a town centre supermarket. There had been reports of a man being drunk and disorderly within the store and causing issues for staff and customers. From the description given and his behaviour, our operator was able to locate the male and advise officers as they arrived. The male was given stern words of advice and sent on his way. Our operator was able to monitor his journey to ensure that he left the town centre, on his way home.

Total Number of Incidents Supported Across the District				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016/17	492	568	492	
2015/16	644	572	763	801
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:-

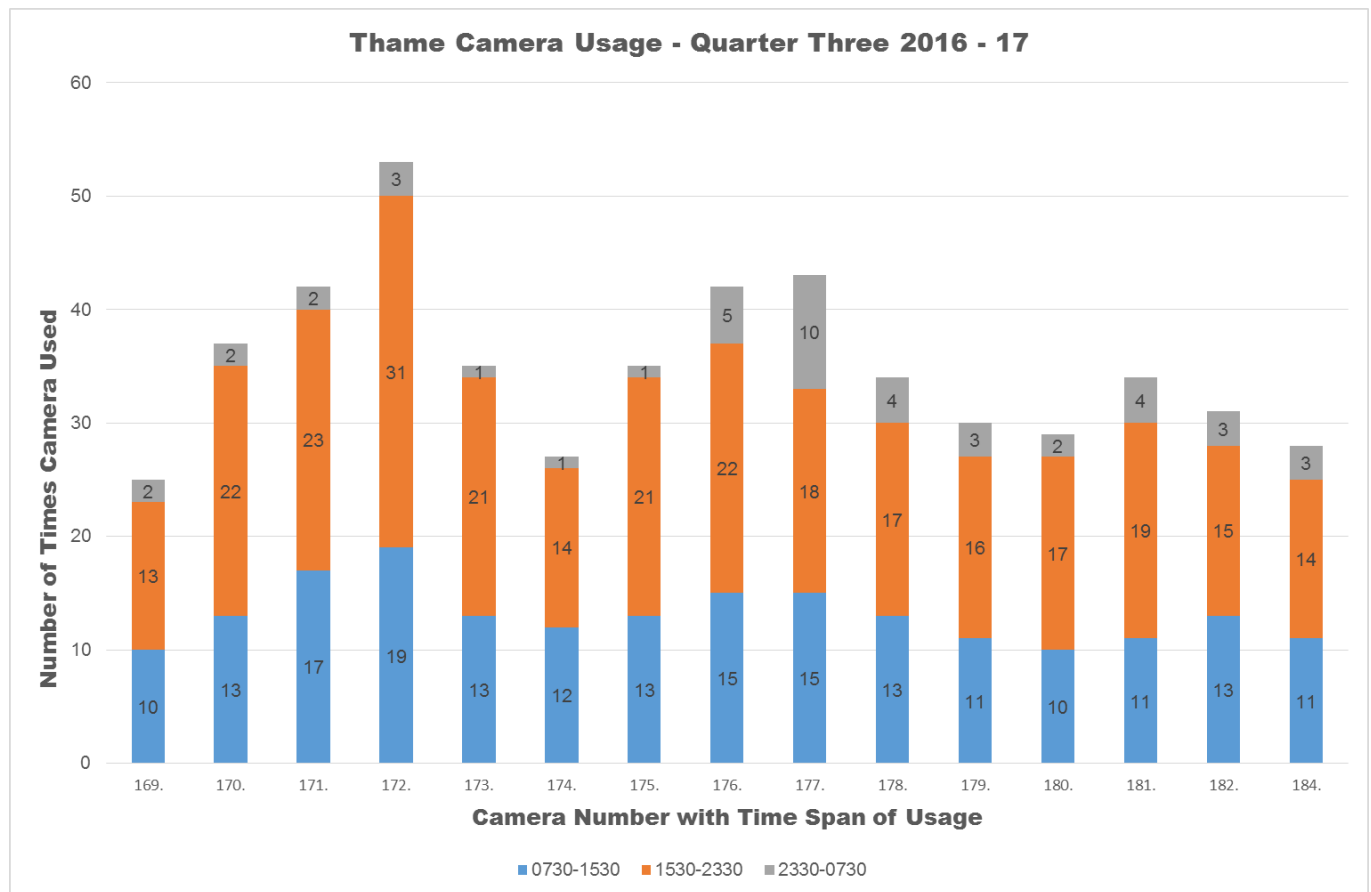
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Didcot	603	436	569	701	1114	209	192	157	
Henley	702	611	747	847	805	146	179	132	
Thame	346	257	376	455	375	46	82	93	
Wallingford	333	283	350	402	486	91	115	110	
District Total	1984	1587	2042	2405	2780	492	568	492	

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.



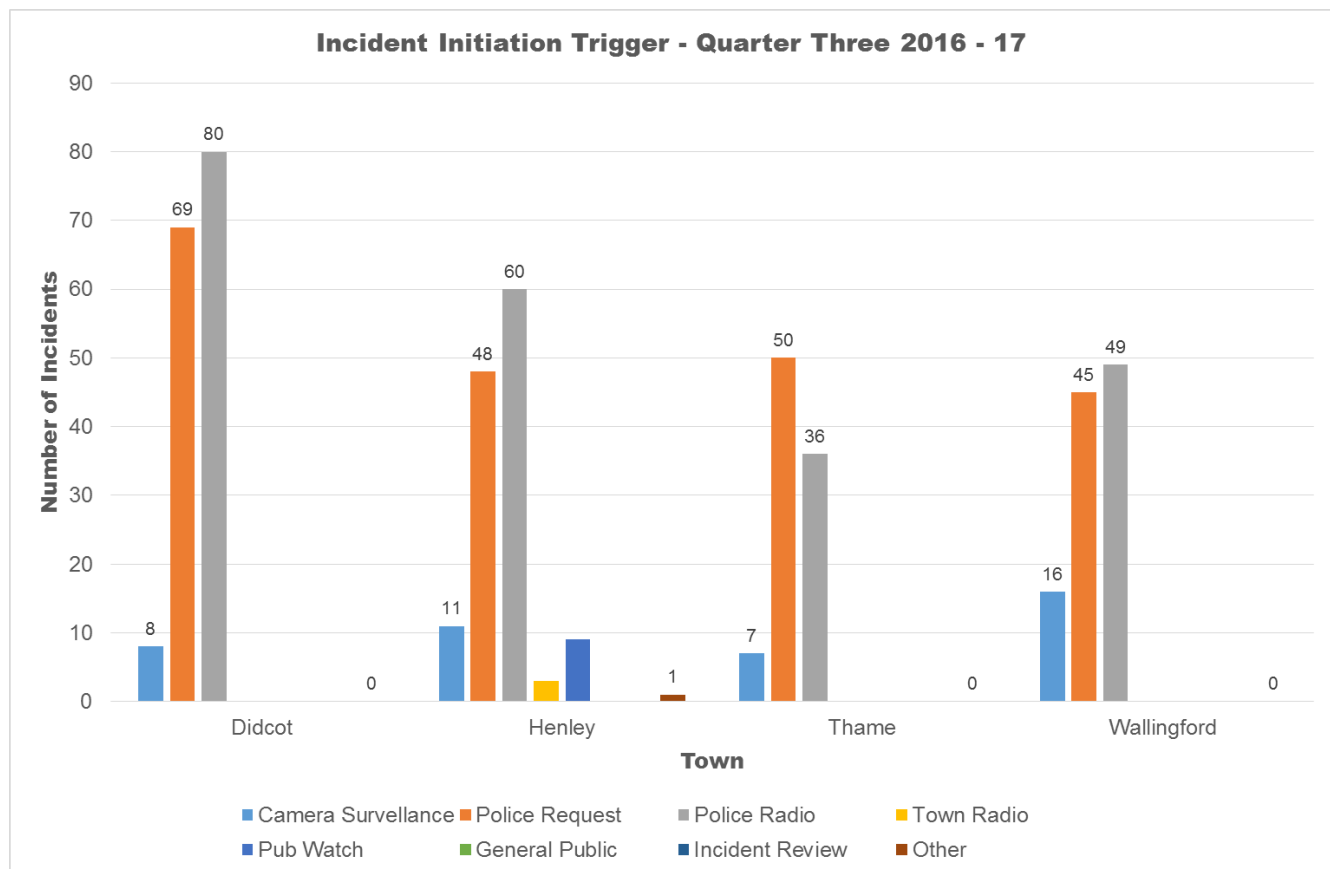
The following table displays the most common type of incident for each town during quarter three 2016 - 17, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

<i>Most commonly monitored incidents</i>				
	Didcot	Henley	Thame	Wallingford
1	Missing persons (40)	Missing Persons (22)	Missing persons (17)	Missing persons (20)
2	Miscellaneous* (22)	Drunkenness (16)	ASB/Nuisance/Rowdy (15)	Miscellaneous*(15)
3	Fear for welfare (16)	Miscellaneous* (14)	Miscellaneous* (12)	Fear for welfare (10)

* Miscellaneous refers to monitored incidents that don't fit easily into categories that are listed e.g. A request from G4 security to monitor their staff attending a local bank.

N.B. In previous quarterly reports, we used a category entitled 'observation'. 'Observations' were so designated by the police on a formal broadcast e.g. "observations for" a vehicle or person or incident. The degree of accuracy and detail passed by police radio depends on what is reported to them from persons reporting the incident.

In order to give a clearer picture of the type of events/incidents in which CCTV are involved, the category 'observations' is no longer used. Where observations are requested, only the category to which the observation is linked, is indicated in the statistics. E.g. If an operator were asked to observe a vehicle that is causing problems and parked on double yellow lines, this would be entered against 'traffic prohibition' on our data base.



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.

