

Policy & Resources Committee - For Information

Date:	11 April 2017
Title:	CCTV
Purpose of the Report:	To provide a summary report for Q4 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 491 incidents during the fourth quarter of 2016 – 17 (January – March 2017).

The operators also produced 25 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out 14 reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 25 arrests.

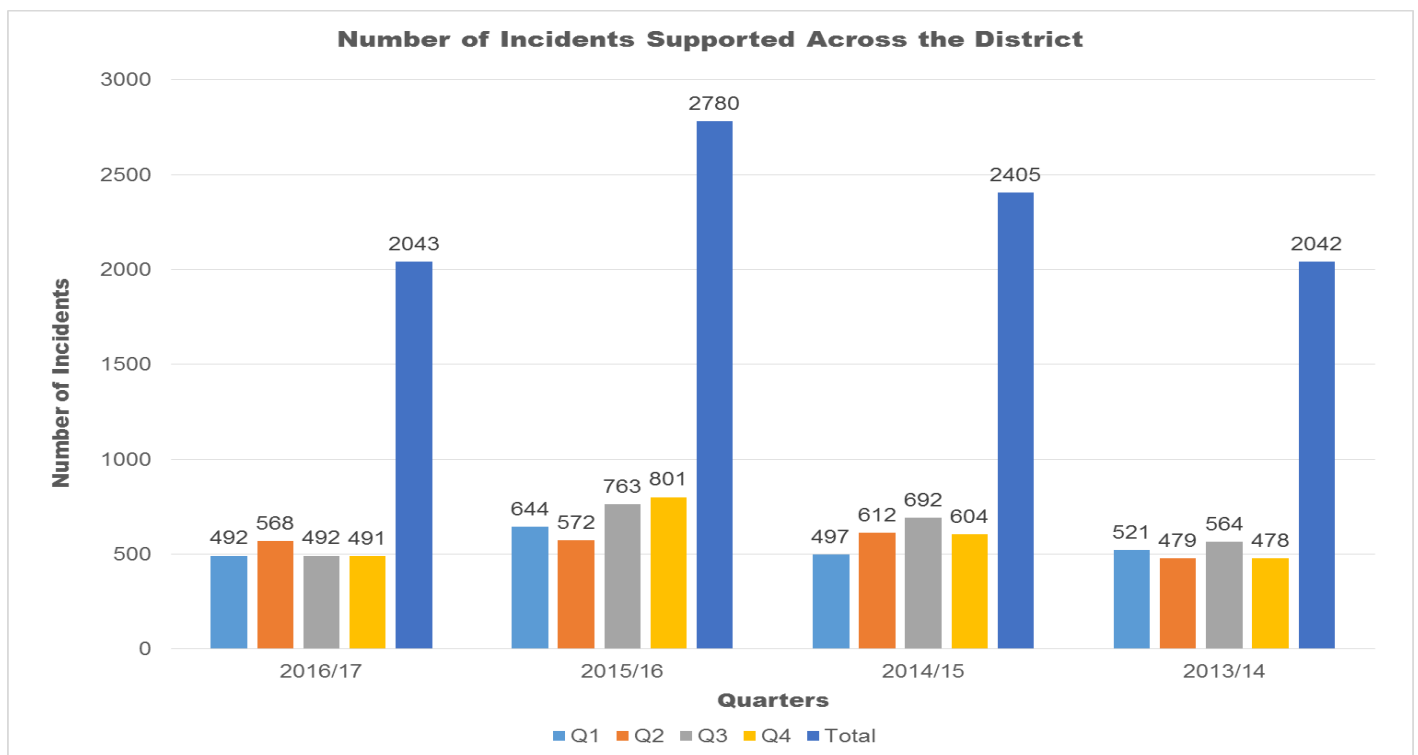
Thame Case Study Information

In the course of routine monitoring, our operator noticed a man behaving suspiciously, hurrying through the town centre. He was carrying a bag that was full of items which he emptied onto the seat of a car parked in a local car park, with a woman sat in the driver's seat. The man then returned to another shop and repeated the activity. Our operator alerted the police control centre and guided officers in the area as the man got into the car and it drove away. The car was stopped and a considerable quantity of alcohol and chocolate gift boxes were found. The man was arrested on suspicion of theft.

Our operator observed a fight break out, just outside a local pub and immediately alerted the police control centre. Local officers arrived at the scene very quickly and defused the situation. The officers were then able to get a clear picture of what had happened from our operator. No complaints were made by any of the participants and they were sent on their way with very stern words of advice about their future conduct. Our operator was able to monitor the group out of the town and confirm with the police control centre that they had gone on their way.

In the early hours of one morning, our operator noticed a police van with blue lights deployed and officers alongside talking to a group of people. The officers got back into the van and resumed their patrol but very soon afterwards returned to the group. At this point, the officers requested that our operator monitor the situation as it had the potential to become volatile. Our operator confirmed that they were monitoring until the main protagonist was persuaded to leave in a waiting car and the group dispersed.

Total Number of Incidents Supported Across the District				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016/17	492	568	492	491
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:-

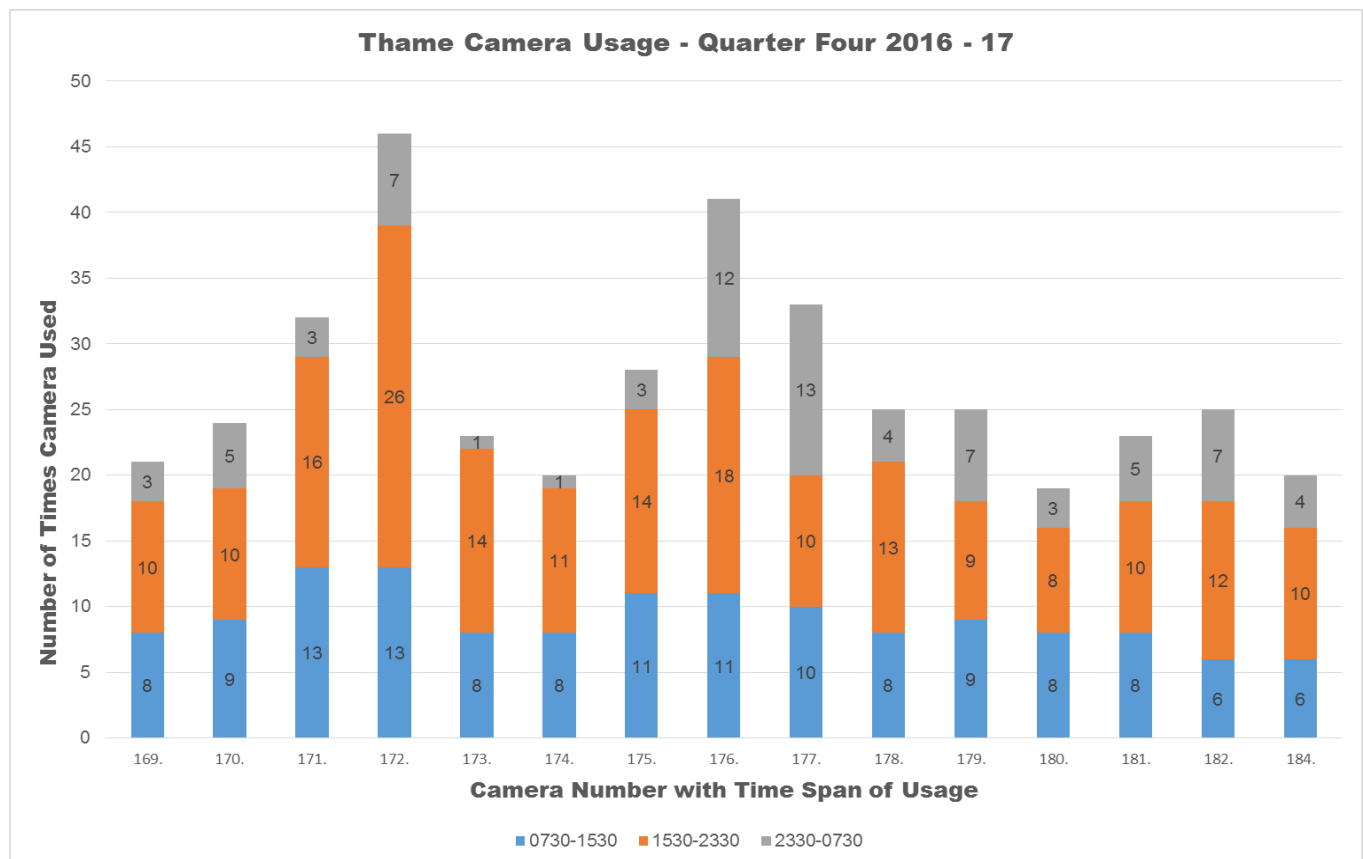
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Didcot	603	436	569	701	1114	209	192	157	164
Henley	702	611	747	847	805	146	179	132	150
Thame	346	257	376	455	375	46	82	93	86
Wallingford	333	283	350	402	486	91	115	110	91
District Total	1984	1587	2042	2405	2780	492	568	492	491

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.



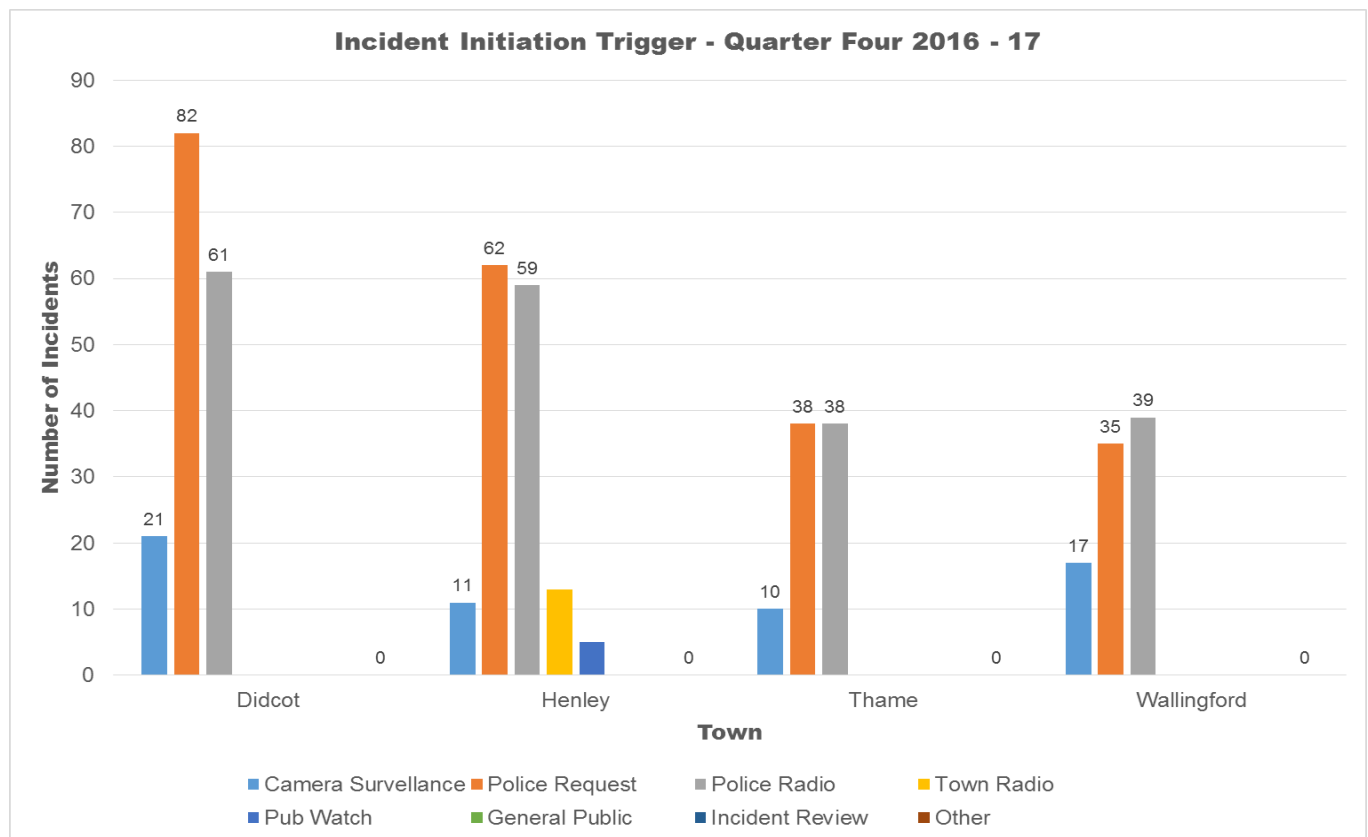
The following table displays the most common type of incident for each town during quarter four 2016 - 17, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

Most commonly monitored incidents				
	Didcot	Henley	Thame	Wallingford
1	Missing persons (26)	Miscellaneous* (25)	ASB/Nuisance/ Rowdy (19)	Miscellaneous* (12)
2	Miscellaneous* (21)	Missing Persons (15)	Fear for welfare (9)	Suspicious Behaviour (11)
3	Traffic Prohibition (17)	ASB/Nuisance/ Rowdy (13)	Miscellaneous* (8)	Missing Persons (9)

*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.

