

Policy & Resources Committee - For Information

Date:	17 April 2018
Title:	CCTV
Purpose of the Report:	To provide a summary report for Q4 2017-18
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Background

At the Full Council meeting held on the 27 February 2018 the five year CCTV Agreement was approved, subject to further investigation, Officers being satisfied that all the points raised during the discussion had been addressed and securing the best possible deal for Thame. The service contract commenced on the 1 April 2018.

The Town Clerk and Community Services Manager are progressing discussions with SODC Officers regarding the draft 5 year Contract for the Town Council. It is hoped that an update will be provided to Full Council on the 24 April 2018.

SODC have confirmed that all 15 CCTV Cameras in Thame will be updated to digital and will be installed in 2018/19. Further investigations are taking place to install an additional CCTV camera at Southern Road Recreation Ground, subject to funding from Thame Town Council.

The report below is an extract from the CCTV Q4 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 **409** incidents during the fourth quarter of 2017-18 (January 2018 –March 2018).

The operators also produced **14** evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out **15** reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported **9** arrests in quarter 4.

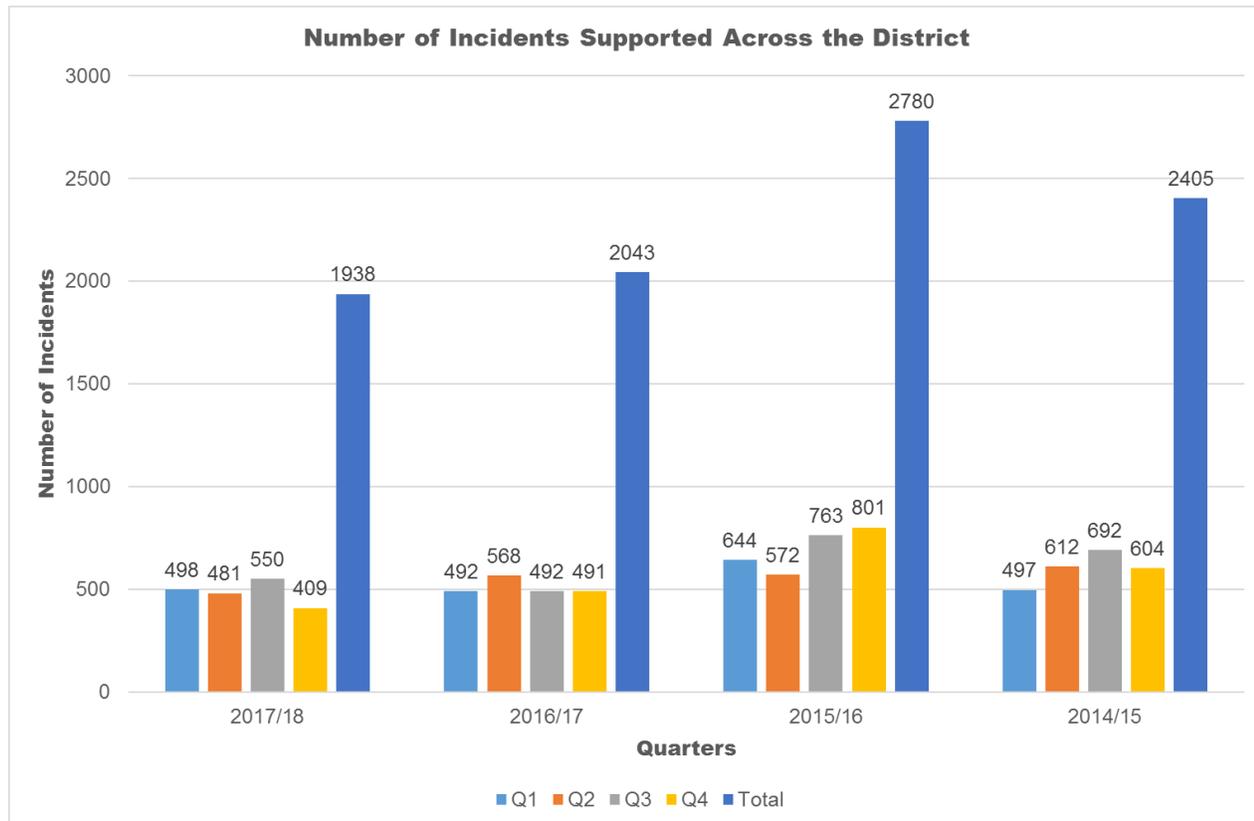
Thame

Reports of an assault came over the police radio, involving a group of teenagers. Our operator noted a group walking through the town and noticed that one of them had blood around his mouth. The police control centre was alerted and officers attended. One arrest was made.

Late one evening, reports had come in to the police control room of two men behaving suspiciously in a local car park, moving around cars using torches. Our operator was able to locate the men and guide officers to their location. The men were given strong words of advice and sent on their way.

The police control room informed our operator of a vehicle that was causing an obstruction, parked near to The War Memorial. From the description given, our operator was able to locate the vehicle and stream a picture to the police control room so that their operator could allocate appropriate resources.

Quarter 4



Total Number of Incidents Supported Across the District				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2017/18	498	481	550	409
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	2017/18			
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Didcot	603	436	569	701	1114	722	177	193	179	140
Henley	702	611	747	847	805	607	156	129	190	594
Thame	346	257	376	455	375	307	81	80	99	62
Wallingford	333	283	350	402	486	407	84	79	82	88
District Total	1984	1587	2042	2405	2780	2043	498	481	550	409

Most commonly monitored incidents				
	Didcot	Henley	Thame	Wallingford
1	Missing persons (36)	Missing Persons (17)	Missing Persons (13)	Fear for Welfare (8) Miscellaneous*(8) Missing Persons (8) Suspicious Behaviour (8)
2	Miscellaneous* (11)	Miscellaneous* (13)	Miscellaneous* (9)	Domestic Abuse (5) Drunkenness (5) Assault (5)
3	Fighting/Affray (9)	Suspicious Behaviour (11) Shoplifting (11)	Traffic Prohibition (5) Anti-social Behaviour (5)	Anti-social Behaviour (4) Drunk in Charge (4) Fighting/Affray (4) Traffic Prohibition (4) Wanted (4)

* 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.

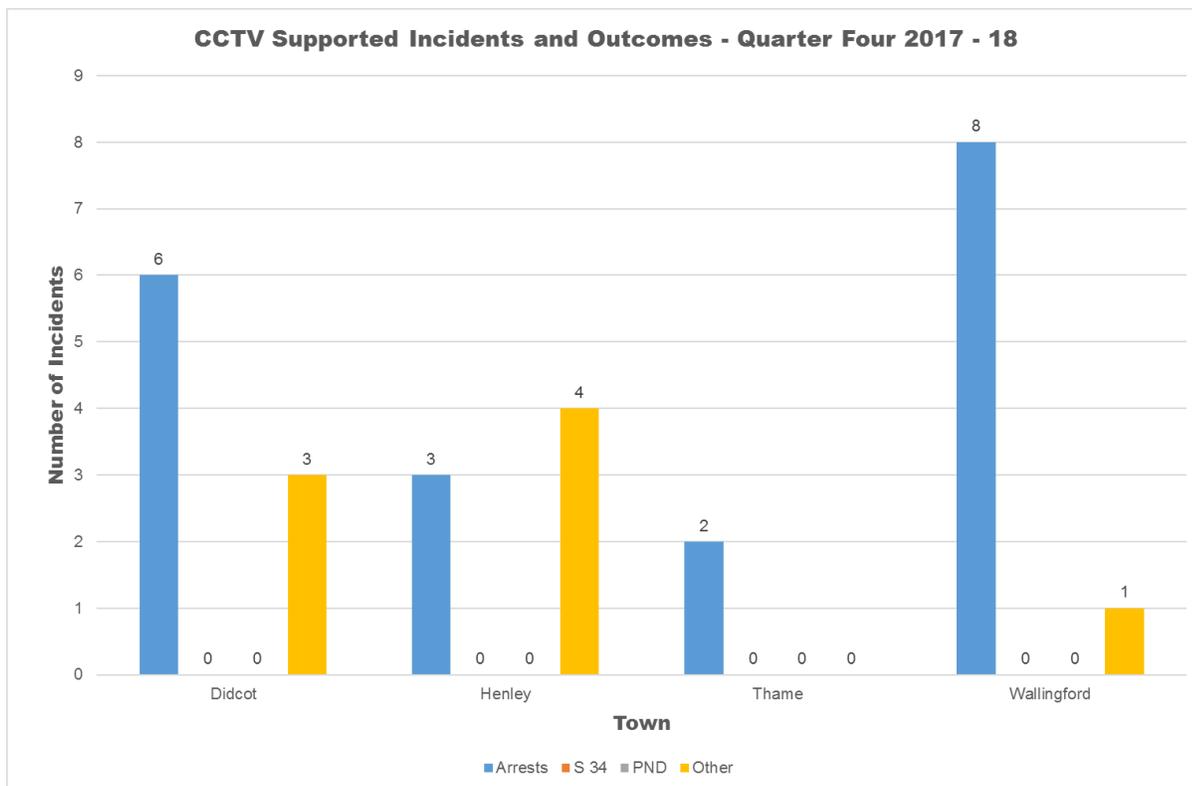
Arrests, Section 34s and other outcomes

The chart below shows the outcomes the CCTV operators supported while involved in monitoring an incident. The police use their discretion on how an incident is resolved based on experience, the gravity of the offence, the resources that are available to them at that time and so on. While we cannot always be certain whether CCTV was solely instrumental in an arrest or the serving of a Section 34¹ or a Penalty Notice for Disorder² (PND), we do know the cameras alert police to incidents they may not have known about. CCTV also gives the police the ability to assess and allocate resources and prioritise in real time e.g. should the situation allow, leaving CCTV to monitor incidents or offenders while officers attend other incidents.

In the chart below, actions designated 'other' usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or a non-recordable sanction.

¹ A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social related disorder.

² A PND is the 'on the spot fine'



Camera Usage

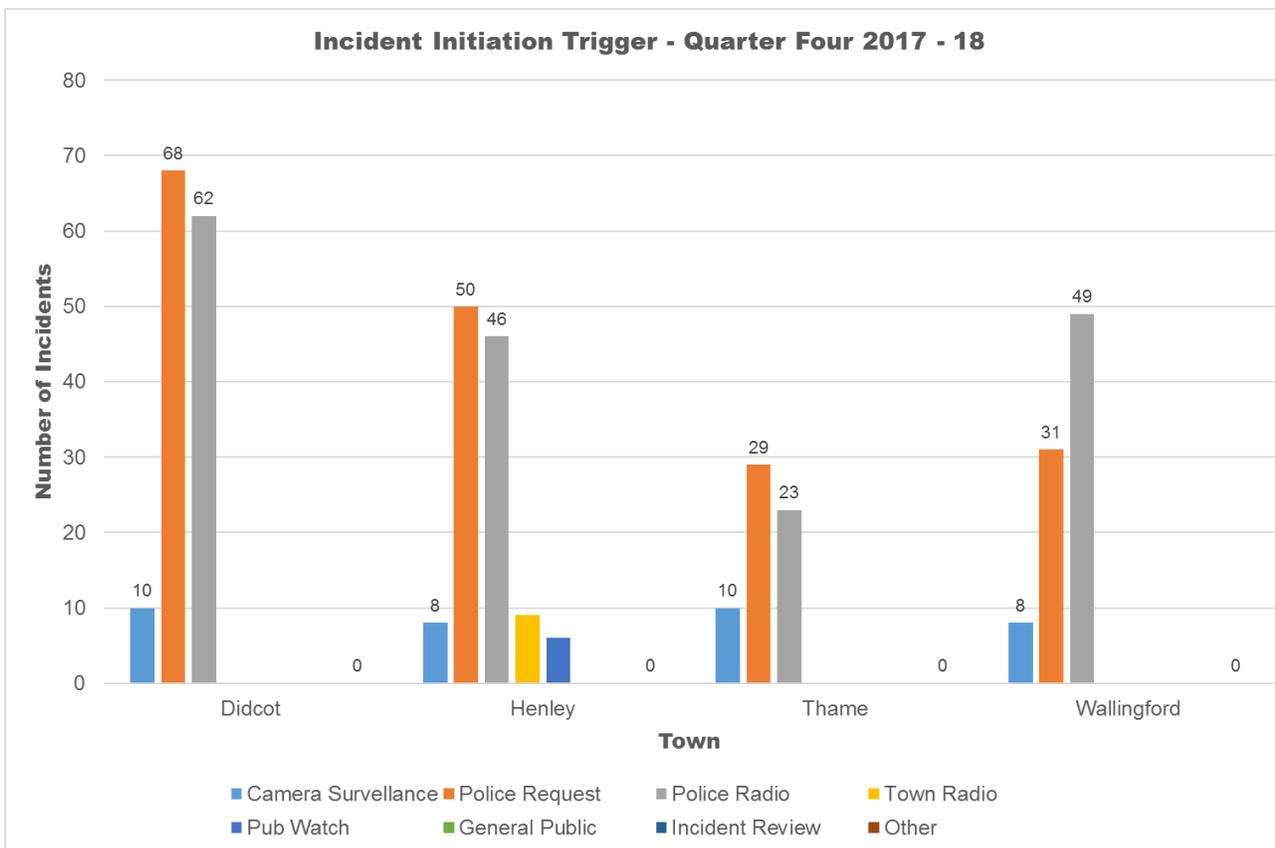
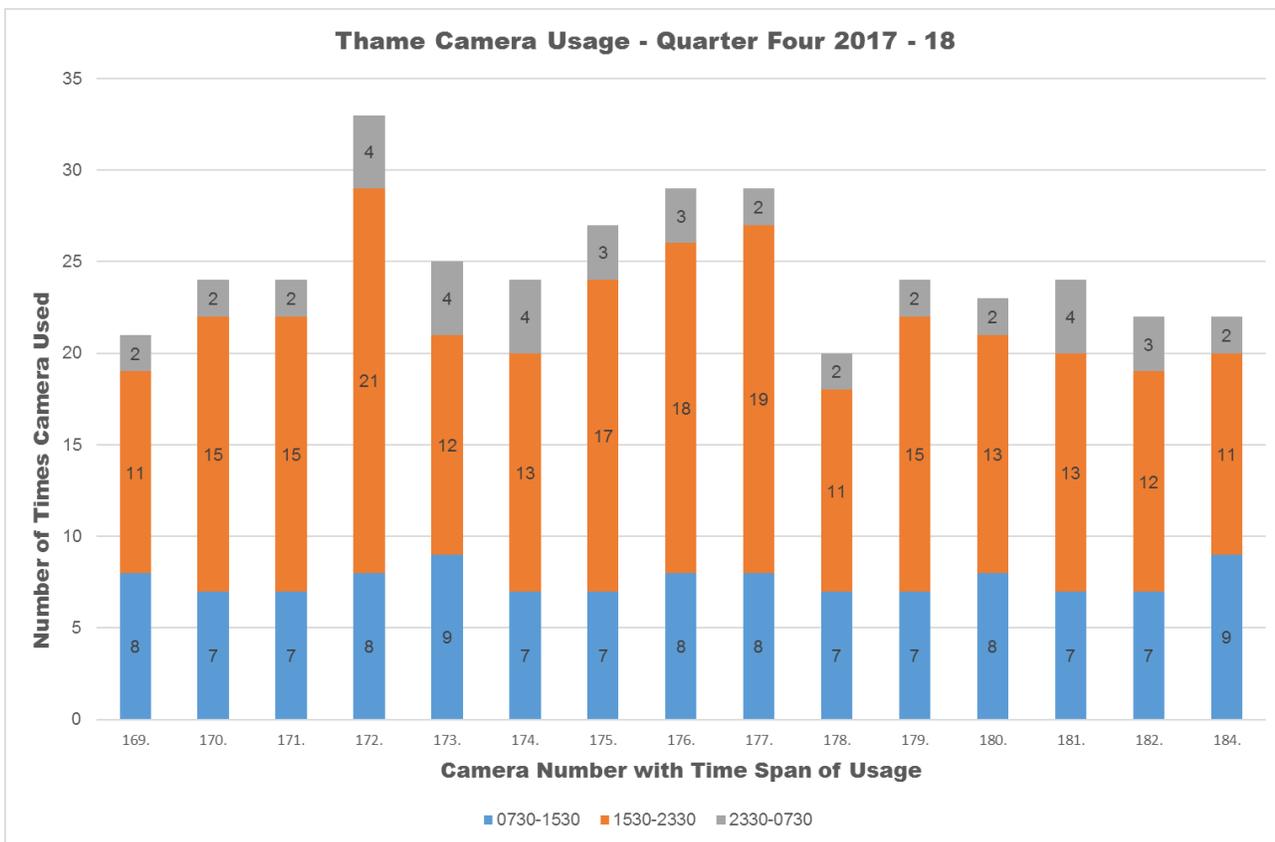
The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

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

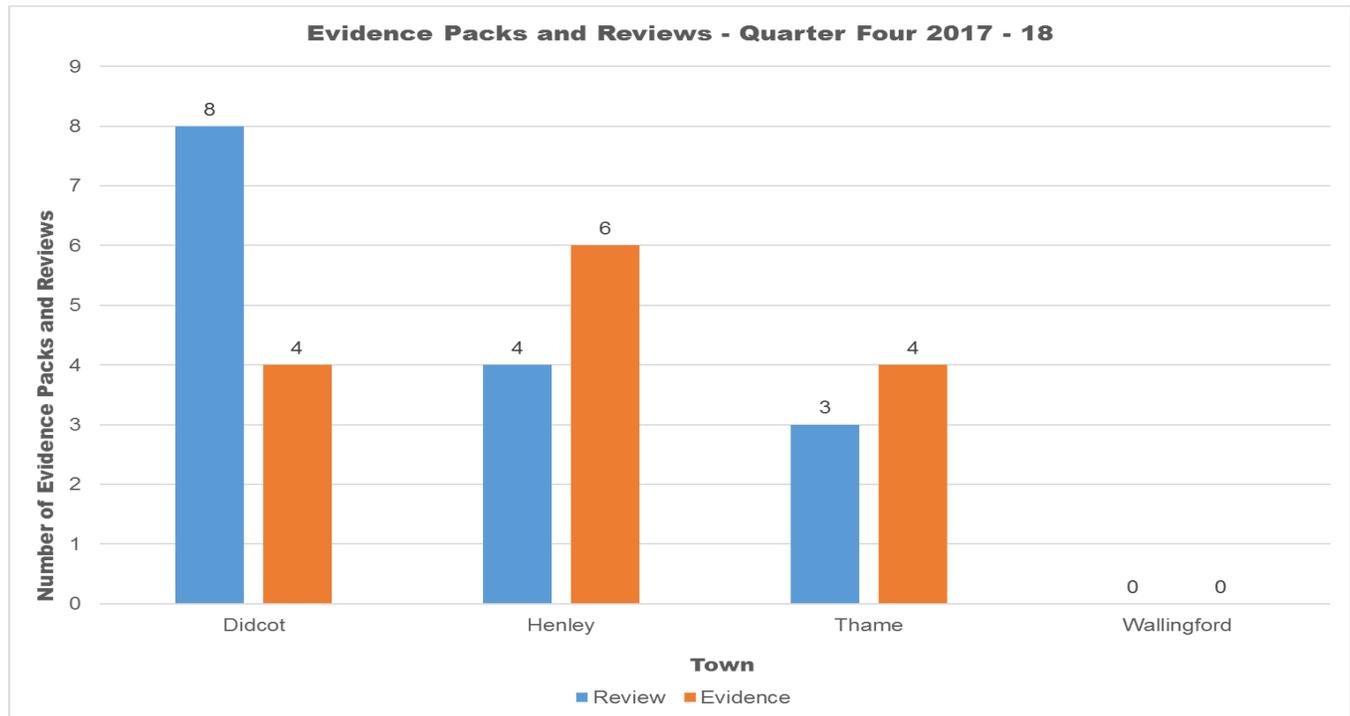
It is worth noting that for the period 23:30 – 07:30, the vast majority of camera usage occurred during the 23:30 – 03:30 time slot.

HOW CCTV MONITORING WAS INITIATED

The chart on page 5 Q4 shows how many of the incidents monitored were as a result of: a direct request from the police (police requests); the CCTV operator hearing about an incident on a police radio (police radio); or initiated by the operator proactively patrolling the cameras (camera surveillance); request to review footage at the time of an incident (incident review). Only Henley on Thames has a shop radio scheme.



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 area 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. Three such requests were received during this quarter. 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.

VIEWING LOG

When authorised personnel (mainly police officers) visit the CCTV control room to view footage, the details are entered into a viewing log. The following chart reflects the number of times this occurred during quarter three for 2017/18, across the four towns.

N.B. These visits may or may not be followed by a formal written request for footage.

