



Highways England have announced proposals to **improve Simister Island Interchange** between the M60, M62 and M66. The interchange is one of the busiest motorway junctions in the north-west used by around 90,000 vehicles each day. The junction was not designed for this level of traffic and as a result suffers from congestion and poor journey time reliability.

Two options have been developed for the proposed project which will provide additional capacity through the junction. These options would provide quicker, more reliable and safer journeys into and around Greater Manchester, with fewer unexpected delays.

Highways England are now holding a public consultation on their plans and would like to hear your views, concerns or ideas. You can find out more about the project and details on how to get involved in their consultation on the project webpage at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m60-j18-simister-island The consultation is open until **17 August 2020**.

A reminder of a Chamber of Commerce initiative during the current pandemic. The **GM Business Community**, powered by the Chamber, allows non-members free access to the network and support of the largest Chamber of Commerce in the UK. Membership of the GM Business Community includes:

- An update on the evolving situation, three times a week – including up-to-date information on business support options from the Government, the Chamber and its members
- Access to MyGMCR – a mobile app where businesses can connect with and direct message fellow business users
- Access to any digital events hosted by the Chamber during this time
- Access to online training and workforce planning
- Complimentary token to access one of the Chamber's local networking events, free of charge, once the coronavirus lockdown is over

To be eligible to join the GM Business Community, you must be a registered business, based in Greater Manchester and not have an existing membership or Partnership with Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

For more information visit www.gmchamber.co.uk or email benefits@gmchamber.co.uk

Everyone is aware of the huge impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on businesses, with many already facing closure and some facing some big recovery decisions over the coming months.

Those (predominantly young) people on **Apprenticeship programmes** are also facing uncertainty. To this point, redundancies have been relatively low, however the adjustments and ultimate cessation of the furlough scheme presents employers with some serious challenges if they wish to support their Apprentices.

Discussions with government are underway regarding possible support packages to enable employers to retain their Apprenticeship programmes and a large number of measures have been made available to training companies to assist those unfortunate to have been made redundant.

Advice to any employer facing tough decisions around their Apprentices is to speak with their training provider, who will be aware of the latest support available, both on a national and Greater Manchester level.

With some Apprentices inevitably facing redundancy, there will also be a need for new employers who would be willing to offer roles to allow the Apprentices to complete. This makes total business sense as this would mean an intake of part-qualified, experienced staff. If you have any questions around retaining your current Apprenticeship programme, or may be in a position to offer employment to an Apprentice who has been made redundant please contact: andrew.turner@rochdale.gov.uk

We have received a request from a Greater Manchester business that is developing a reusable face visor. They are looking for businesses who may be able to partner with them:

Injection moulding & tooling company or separate companies with complementary skills

1. Injection moulding/tooling company to work in partnership (under NDA) with us to develop a novel, reusable face visor, ideally manufactured from recyclable materials
2. Ability to conduct design analysis and suggest necessary improvements to save time and money
3. Knowledge of producing medical materials and meeting relevant regulatory/PPE/medical devices standards/CE marking
4. Capability to produce circa 250,000 visors in year one

Stretch film/medical grade film manufacturer to supply/work on development of disposable film for reusable healthcare visor

1. Clear film/stretch film manufacturer, not reseller, to work with us under NDA
2. Ideally with ability to supply existing film type or develop hybrid if suitable film type is not available. A cost-effective solution is essential. Suitably strong, optically clear.
3. Knowledge of serving medical devices/PPE market or interested in breaking into that market
4. Full testing capability to ensure suitability; i.e. anti-fogging, good optical clarity, non-carcinogenic, anti-bacterial, resistance to airborne contagions, required stretch/strength etc. (Necessary regs will be supplied.)

If you are interested in finding out more, please email : Peter.Bailey@rawwater.com

Mental Health is a hot topic at the moment, so in conjunction with Rochdale Training, the Council and Northern Employment, there is a free training session taking place on Tuesday 30th June at 2pm via Zoom.

This is a free training session; aimed at Managers, Middle Managers & Team Leaders. The training will help managers:

- Understand Mental Health better
- Identify a member of their team struggling
- Support their employees through difficult times

Whilst there is no charge for this training session, businesses who take part are asked to consider making a donation through the Just giving Page to help raise funds for the charity MIND. The link for this is here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/northernemployment> . Please email: Kirsty.wilkinson@northern-employment.co.uk to book your place, and you will receive the Zoom log in invitation.

Regards

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