

## Modelling Managed Motorways

Active Traffic Management on the M42 has shown how 'managed motorways' deliver reduced congestion, better journey times and improved air quality. This is achieved using measures such as hard shoulder running and variable speed limits at peak times, and decisions made by traffic controllers are crucial to the effectiveness of the approach. Risk Solutions recently led a team to develop a prototype procedural trainer for traffic controllers incorporating a state-of-the-art traffic flow simulator and virtual reality model of the route. The system, VRSiMM, enables trainees to manage virtual traffic flows, responding to adverse weather conditions and incidents created by their instructor. They can also review how actual events were managed, using data imported from HA's systems, and test alternative responses.

VRSiMM has been well received by the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency and there is considerable interest in using it to provide early warning of critical flow conditions and simulating new managed motorway schemes, as well as a training aid.

The project was procured through the Technology Strategy Board's Small Business Research Initiative. In addition to being invited to have a stand at Innovate 10, the TSB's annual showpiece event, the project was selected as one of the TSB's [case study](#) projects.



## Joined-up Services for Older People



A quarter of us will be over 65 by 2051. This will place enormous pressures on health and social care services. The 'Big Society' aims to tackle these issues. DWP commissioned Risk Solutions to carry out research into how Local Authorities are working with their partners to rise to this challenge. Building on previous

work, we constructed a 'framework for success' that identified key enablers for joined-up delivery of services and provided exemplars of how these had been realised in eight case studies. The report is available on [DWP's website](#).

## Supporting the NAO

Risk Solutions are leading one of two teams appointed by the National Audit Office (NAO) to review the quality of their value for money reports (the other team is Oxford University). The NAO holds the government to account for the way it uses public money; it helps public service managers improve performance and service delivery. We are proud to be supporting NAO in this important work, especially at this challenging time. Find out more about the reviews [here](#).



## As If By Magic!



Last year we held our most entertaining client event yet at the headquarters of The Magic Circle. There is no such thing as a free dinner and our guests earned theirs by finding magical solutions to the budget deficit - whilst being distracted by mind readers, pickpockets and close-up magicians!