

# U-Drive creates jobs as it invests more than £10m in new Manchester base

A family-owned car hire, van, truck and minibus rental company is to invest more than £10m in its new Manchester base and create jobs.

U-Drive has taken space at Oakhill Trading Estate in Walkden which adds to its nine other locations in Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Poole, Salisbury and Southampton, vehicle delivery hubs in Dorchester and Fareham and the head office in Poole.

The business is marking its 40th anniversary this year after being launched by David and Gill Hamblin in 1982, shortly before Richard Sutton joined the team.

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They continue as directors of the company alongside Mr Sutton and their son, Mark Hamblin.

Julie Peters, branch manager at the new business hub, said: “We’re excited to be launching in the North West and I have no doubt that myself and our team at the new business branch will continue U-Drive’s excellent track record of providing superb customer service to support all our customers’ fleet requirements.

“Whether you’re looking for short to long term vehicle hire, flexi-hire and contract hire, vehicle livery supply and fitting or commercial vehicle sales, U-Drive is a ‘one stop shop’ facility for all of our business customers’ needs.”

Director Mark Hamblin added: “We’re delighted to be expanding into the North of England and looking forward to welcoming new

customers to our business hub while supporting our existing clients.

“This new location in Manchester, provides our first operational location within the North West.

“Our investment into the North marks a significant moment in the history of U-Drive and underlines our commitment to continued growth in the UK.

“We operate a network of branches across the south and in Wales and every branch team has contributed to the company’s continual growth and success, something we are extremely proud of.”

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