





An artist's impression of Moseley station

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Designs unveiled for three new rail stations in Birmingham

Plans for three new Birmingham rail stations have today been unveiled as the reopening of the Camp Hill Line to passenger services takes another step forward.

Under the proposals the line, reopened to passenger services for the first time since the Second World War, would initially have three stations at Moseley, Kings Heath and Hazelwell. The Camp Hill Line will attract new passengers to rail by offering an alternative to commuting via bus and car on congested A435 Alcester Road.

The initial service from these stations is expected to be two trains an hour into Central Birmingham, with journey times of around 15 minutes.

With detailed planning to take place over the next 12 months on the three stations, it is hoped that construction work would start in 2020, with a view to getting the three stations open by the end of 2021. This would be in time for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street was joined by Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling for a tour of the Moseley station site and the unveiling of the station designs.

Andy Street said: "I know exactly how important reopening this railway line is to people in the communities in Kings Heath, Moseley and Hazelwell, and everybody who has a part to play in making this happen is working towards getting it reopened as quickly as possible.

"Congestion from this part of the city into the city centre is one of the huge drawbacks for what are otherwise thriving areas – undoing the rail closures seven decades ago will be a huge step in tackling both congestion and the clean air challenge we all face."

Plans are being jointly developed by the West Midlands Rail Executive, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), West Midlands Railway and Network Rail. They are working together on the track, signalling and service changes required.

In the longer term, more frequent services may be possible as part of the Midlands Rail Hub project which will build the Camp Hill Chords to link the line to Moor Street Station and allow more trains into Birmingham City Centre.

Although there are no firm plans at this stage, a fourth station could also be opened at Balsall Heath in the future.

The Camp Hill Line development is part of a much wider package of

investment in transport underway in the West Midlands.

Cllr Roger Lawrence, the Chair of West Midlands Rail Executive, said: "The Moseley line is part of the wider investment TfWM is making across our region.

"We are working on extending our tram network, developing new Sprint rapid bus routes and of course looking to reopen more railway lines.

"We are also making progress on plans to reopen the Wolverhampton to Walsall line to passengers with new stations at Willenhall and Darlaston as part of our ambition to create a world class integrated transport system.

"This investment in the region's bus, rail, cycling and trams will not only improve lives of residents and commuters, but it will underpin the economic growth of our region."

Martin Frobisher, managing director for Network Rail's London North Western route, said: "The proposed railway upgrades in the West Midlands are really exciting. We are eager to work with all partner organisations that share our ambition to bring lasting improvements for rail customers.

"On the Camp Hill line proposals, we are undertaking detailed work to assess the practicality of the timetable and to determine if additional railway infrastructure is needed."

West Midlands Railway managing director, Jan Chaudhry-van der Velde, said "Rail travel in the West Midlands has never been more popular, and demand continues to increase.

"West Midlands Railway is working in partnership with the Mayor, the Combined Authority and West Midlands Rail Executive to ensure resources are put in place to meet that demand with new stations, new trains with improved reliability and better information for our passengers." For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston.
- West Midlands Railway services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit<u>westmidlandsrailway.co.uk</u> or <u>londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk</u>

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

West Midlands Trains operates 1,300 services a day, manages 150 stations and provides over 70 million passenger journeys a year. Over the course of the franchise, West Midlands Trains will be investing £1 billion into the rail network to deliver new trains, improved routes and station upgrades. This will include 400 new train carriages across the network and space for an extra 85,000 passengers into Birmingham and London at peak times.

The franchise is a joint venture between Abellio (70.1% share) and East Japan Railway Company / Mitsui & Co., Ltd (29.9% share in a 50:50 split). Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. In the UK, Abelllio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit www.abellio.com

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