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West Midlands Railway invites local business leaders to discuss May timetable improvements

West Midlands Railway is inviting local economic and business leaders to find out about new opportunities arising from a range of timetable improvements being introduced in May.

The train operator is hosting a special Rail and Business Breakfast in

Wolverhampton, on Wednesday 20 March, to outline a range of commercial opportunities arising from changes to train services this Spring.

The event is aimed at Business Owners/Directors, HR Directors, Chamber Execs, Local Authority Economic Development Officers, LEP Executives and Entrepreneurs.

A new rail timetable is being introduced across the West Midlands Railway network from 19 May. This will bring a range of benefits to businesses and commuters, including more direct services across the network, additional services with some earlier start times and enhanced off-peak timetables throughout the week.

Richard Brooks, customer experience director for West Midlands Railway, said: "The timetable improvements being introduced in May represent the biggest change to local rail travel for a decade. We are committed to bringing our regional railway services closer to the businesses we serve across the West Midlands, so warmly invite those who want to find out more and engage with us on these plans, to attend this special event. We are excited to outline our vision for how we plan to cater for the growing demand for rail travel across the region."

Alasdair Hobbs, MD of Human Results will be speaking on the Flexi Working Revolution and Richard Brooks, from West Midlands Railway will be presenting on how the train operator is looking to work more closely with the communities and businesses of the West Midlands. There will also be presentations on off-peak business travel offers available.

Registration is essential for the event, which is taking place at The Grand Station in Wolverhampton from 0800 – 0930, on Wednesday 20 March.

For more information and to book your place go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rail-and-business-breakfast-for-the-west-midlands-tickets-56029809669>

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About West Midlands Trains

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 westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

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, Abellio 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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