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Phase One of new Wolverhampton Station opens to public

Phase one of Wolverhampton's new railway station will open to the public on Monday 25 May.

Work on the first of two construction phases has been completed and the building has been handed over to West Midlands Railway, which runs the station.

The full benefits of the new facility will not be felt for some time with people currently being urged to follow the government's coronavirus guidance and

not travel by train unless absolutely essential.

The opening of the first phase is a major milestone in the city's £150million Interchange development that will better connect train, tram and bus.

Station signage has been installed and a clear pedestrian access route to the new station entrance will be marked out around the phase two works, which will begin immediately.

Phase one includes six ticket vending machines, new British Transport Police, toilet, accessibility and baby changing facilities, three retail units ready to be fitted out and train crew accommodation.

Due to coronavirus social distancing measures a one-way system has been marked out at the station for people to follow and both West Midlands Railway and sister company London Northwestern Railway are urging customers to buy their tickets online in advance if possible.

Jonny Wiseman, head of customer experience for West Midlands Railway, said:

“This bright, modern building will bring huge benefits to our customers at Wolverhampton and the wider region.

“For now, the railway is reserved for only the most essential journeys but we can look forward with excitement to this superb facility serving the whole community for many decades to come.”

City of Wolverhampton Council leader, Councillor Ian Brookfield, said:

“A lot of hard work has been put in by all the partners on the Interchange scheme and I am looking forward to seeing our new railway station up and running from Monday.

“Of course, at this time it is vital that people follow the Government's coronavirus guidance and do not use the train or public transport in general unless absolutely necessary.

“The new station building will make a huge difference to the passenger experience and, with the partners now cracking on with phase two of the development, it will ultimately provide a gateway to our city that we can all enjoy using - and be proud of.”

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands, said:

“The new Wolverhampton Railway Station is a crucial part of public transport plans for the West Midlands and I am pleased the WMCA could help play its part in making it happen alongside City of Wolverhampton Council and other partners.

“Of course, at the moment we are urging people to follow the Government’s guidelines and only use public transport if it is absolutely essential, meaning we are not expecting many passengers to see the new station yet. But this will all change when restrictions ease further and we begin to encourage people back onto public transport.

“Not only that, soon Wolverhampton commuters will be able to travel seamlessly across the region, with the West Midlands Metro extension along Pipers Row set to link to this new station as well as the existing bus station. The new station is a brilliant development for the city, and yet another example of how partnership working is benefitting the West Midlands.”

Phase two of the programme will see the demolition of the remainder of the current station building and completion of the new build to house three more retail units, as well as a customer waiting room and help point.

The new station building to serve the city will be fully open in early 2021.

Wolverhampton Interchange Partnership consists of City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC), Ion, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), West Midlands Railway, Avanti West Coast, Network Rail, Midland Metro Alliance, Canal & River Trust, and Black Country LEP.

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.

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