



Ground work taking place at Stechford station

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£3.9 million overhaul of Stechford station to provide step-free access for everyone

Work will start later this month to install new lifts, ramps and a footbridge at Stechford station to ensure step-free access across all three platforms for the first time.

The £3.9m upgrade to make the station accessible for everyone will be complete for West Midlands Railway passengers by the end of 2019.

A temporary footbridge will soon be built on site to minimise disruption to passengers while the work continues.

The station, located on the West Coast Mainline and on the line between Birmingham New Street and Birmingham International, has regular direct services to and from London every day.

The investment has come directly from the Department for Transport's 'Access for All' programme, which was launched in 2006 to improve accessibility at railway stations nationwide.

It forms part of Network Rail's five-year, multi-billion-pound Railway Upgrade Plan, which is the biggest investment in the railway since Victorian times.

Harpreet Singh Moore, Network Rail scheme project manager, said: "The accessibility improvements at Stechford station form part of our Railway Upgrade Plan. Network Rail will unlock the railway network for many people in and around Stechford, allowing them easy access to travel that was previously not possible.

"We are working closely with the station operator, West Midlands Trains, to ensure our work brings as little disruption as possible to neighbours and passengers."

Transport Minister Nusrat Ghani said: "We are committed to creating a transport network that is accessible for everyone, which is why it is great to see another station benefitting from our Access for All programme.

"So far we have provided step free, accessible routes at more than 200 stations, and we have committed a further £300m to extend the programme until at least 2024."

Richard Brooks, customer experience director for West Midlands Railway, said: "Improving accessibility at Stechford is a key part of our plans for local rail users as we continue to respond to the popularity of rail travel across the West Midlands.

"As part of our £1bn investment into our network, the station will see new trains operating to and from the capital from 2021. This will significantly increase capacity on trains on the line.

"Everyone is welcome to travel with us and we are constantly looking at ways

to make it easier and simpler for passengers to use our services.”

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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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