Press Release

23 March 2022

New look Coventry Station set to deliver step change in customer experience

- *£82 million transformation of Coventry Railway Station now complete*
- *Customer benefits include improved access, car parking and integrated transport hub*
- *Avanti West Coast worked in partnership with local authority and industry partners to deliver project*

Coventry Railway Station has opened following a £82million transformation which is set to deliver a step change in the experience for travellers.

Avanti West Coast, who managed the station, has worked in partnership with Coventry City Council, Network Rail, and other rail operators, Transport for West Midlands, Friargate JV Project Ltd and other stakeholders on the regeneration programme.

The major project has delivered a purpose-built new look station building and striking entrance featuring public art. Passengers can also now use a footbridge to reach platforms one to four which is connected to the new multi-storey 629-space car park.

Station access is greatly improved from Station Square, alongside entrances on Warwick Road providing entry to the new cycle hub, footbridge and station building plus an additional entrance point under Warwick Road where a direct access tunnel has been built, linking the station to the new transport interchange.

Click here for some amazing drone footage of the new facility.

The concourse areas feature five retail units, waiting rooms and toilets. There are new lifts for passengers to use while a secure cycle hub has been installed along with electric vehicle charging points.

A "Welcome to Coventry" sign from local artists Charis Esther and Luisa Freitas which has involved dozens of community groups, charities and schools producing embroidery work has formed a mural at the station, and further artwork will be unveiled later in the year.

There are also improved facilities outside the station including a new pedestrian boulevard and an information pod to help visitors arriving in the city.

WEST COAST PARTNERSHIP

AVANTI WEST COAST

A vehicle drop-off area for passengers has been created in Station Square while there will be 20 minutes free parking in the new multi-storey car park to pick-up passengers.

The Coventry Station Masterplan project has been funded by £39.4 million from the West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Deal and £27.5 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund through Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) and funds from Coventry City Council.

Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change at Coventry City Council and CWLEP board director, said: "I am pleased that we are finally able to welcome people to the new extension of our transformed railway station. The new build sits alongside the original station which will celebrate its 60th birthday this year – another fine example of how we are combining the best of the old with the best of the new.

"For many people, the station is the first thing they see upon arriving to Coventry. First impressions count and now this impressive building will give people a warm Coventry welcome. There are improvements for cyclists, pedestrians, drivers and bus users too. All with the aim of encouraging people to choose public transport for some of their journeys."

Tony Minhas, CWLEP board director, said: "It has been great to watch the transformation take place and we now have a railway station which will showcase the city and the region to visitors from across the UK and the world especially during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games this summer.

"The funds from CWLEP have played a vital role in improving the transport infrastructure of the area as well as boosting the local economy, and will make a positive difference for years to come."

As well as contributing £39.4 million to the redevelopment, the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is also investing in the wider regeneration of Coventry and delivering transport improvements including the WM On Demand bus service, All-Electric Bus City scheme and recent refurbishment of Pool Meadow Bus Station.

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands and chair of the WMCA, said: "It is great to see the railway station open after all the hard work which has gone into its development. It is a fitting gateway for the city and I am pleased we have been able to play our part in making it happen."

Natasha Grice, Executive Director Stations at Avanti West Coast, said: "The new look station will transform the experience of customers heading to the city by rail. I've been watching excitedly as the new station has taken shape and I can't wait to see the reaction of our passengers when they arrive at Coventry as we look forward to welcoming more visitors to the city in the coming months."

The opening of the new station building coincides with the 60-year anniversary of the opening of the existing Grade II listed station in 1962. A celebration event is being planned later in the spring to mark the occasion.

Main Picture Caption: Left to right, Maria McCarron (Avanti West Coast Station Manager at Coventry), Malcolm Holmes (director of rail Transport for West Midlands/West Midlands Combined Authorty), Tony Minhas (CWLEP board director) and Cllr Jim O'Boyle (Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change at Coventry City Council and CWLEP board director) outside the transformed Coventry Railway Station

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Avanti West Coast

Avanti West Coast, operator of intercity rail services on the West Coast Main Line, is a joint venture between FirstGroup and Trenitalia, delivering a cleaner, greener railway that drives the West Coast forward.

We're on a mission to revolutionise train travel, linking together the towns and major cities of the UK to create an iconic railway the country can be proud of. We've got big plans including a fleet of new intercity trains, as well as the complete refurbishment of the existing Pendolino train fleet. We will introduce more train services every week with new routes added, and a much-improved onboard service with enhanced free Wi-Fi, plug sockets, 25,000 brand new seats and improved catering. Since 8 December 2019, passengers have benefitted from improved passenger compensation, available for journeys delayed by just 15 minutes.

For the latest news, visit the Avanti West Coast Media Room: https://newsdesk.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/

Press Office: 0845 000 3333

WEST COAST
PARTNERSHIP

AVANTI
WEST COAST