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Passenger use rewards Chiltern Mainline launch

Posted 11/01/12

Chiltern Railways says the number of passengers using its trains to travel between London and Birmingham has increased by 65% since the launch of Chiltern Mainline four months ago.

Mainline launched in September (TB 7923) following completion of phase one of the £250m Evergreen 3 programme to enable faster trains to run along the Chiltern route between London Marylebone and Birmingham Moor Street. A refurbished fleet of Mainline trains offers passengers wifi internet access and Business Zone, described as a cost effective alternative to the first class carriages on other operators' trains.

Chiltern says passenger numbers using Solihull station are up 68.6% and 41.9% at Warwick Parkway since the launch of Mainline. The company has further plans to improve travel for the West Midlands in 2012 which include refurbishing trains and building new car parks at both Solihull and Warwick Parkway.

Thomas Ableman, director of Chiltern Railways, said: "2012 is forecast to be another tough year and businesses will need to continue to make changes in order to remain competitive. We believe the combination of our pricing and journey times makes it hard to justify travelling with anyone else and our sales reflect this."

Chiltern Railways is part of Arriva, the division of Deutsche Bahn responsible for regional passenger transport outside of Germany.



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