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FCC appoints new managing director

Written by KATHRYN CAIN

FIRSTGROUP, which runs the Thameslink railway line, has appointed a new managing director of First Capital Connect.

David Statham will take over from Neal Lawson, who is leaving to join Network Rail, on May 24.



According to FCC, David has an

extensive record of leadership and delivery within the rail sector, having held a number of senior roles with a strong focus on customer service and major project delivery. He has considerable experience of close partnership working with a wide range of stakeholders, which will be invaluable in his new position, and was responsible for First Capital Connect's central role in the initial stages of the Thameslink Programme. Most recently, David led the development of FirstGroup's strategy for the expanded Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern franchise, which resulted in the Group being one of the shortlisted bidders for the current competition

He said: "I look forward to leading the team at First Capital Connect as we continue to improve the service we offer our customers and deliver considerable further infrastructure and capacity increases for our passengers, partners and stakeholders. I am determined to focus on improving customer satisfaction, which is at the heart of all our business decisions, by delivering solid performance, a clean train environment and the best possible response and information during times of disruption."

Vernon Barker, FirstGroup's UK Rail Managing Director, said: "I am delighted to welcome David to his new role. He will lead the First Capital Connect team at a crucial time as the return to rail franchising gathers pace and we move ahead with the next stage of the Thameslink Programme. I would also like to thank Neal for the significant contribution he has made to our business. He leaves First Capital Connect in great shape for the next phase of the franchise, and we wish him all the best for the future."

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by Tabool

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A MAN has punched the wing mirror of an ambulance, causing £700 of damage, after becoming frustrated at hospital.

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THE brand new Premier Inn and Brewers Fayre restaurant in Bedford has officially opened its doors to the public, injecting an investment of £6.3 million into the

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THE county's police force is under investigation after a student was left with serious neck injuries when he was arrested outside a Bedford nightclub on Monday.

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