

Huddersfield to get direct rail link to London after more than half a century of waiting

A new LNER service will connect Huddersfield Railway Station with London for the first time in more than 50 years.

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○ LNER managing director David Horne and Colne Valley MP Jason McCartney pictured with one of the Adzuma trains that will connect Huddersfield with London.



Huddersfield will get its own direct rail link to London it has been announced.

Train operator LNER has announced the introduction of a new daily weekday service from 18 May that will connect <u>Huddersfield Railway Station</u> with London King's Cross.

The new service to London will depart Huddersfield every weekday at 5.50am, calling at Dewsbury 11 minutes later and arriving into Leeds at 6.16am, where it will join another five-car service that departs for King's Cross at 6.40am.

Passengers will arrive in the capital at 8.51am, meaning a total journey time of just over three hours from Huddersfield.

The returning service will depart King's Cross at 6.03pm and split at Leeds. One train will head to Skipton, while the other will pass through Dewsbury at 8.45pm and then arrive back in Huddersfield at 8.58pm, meaning a slightly shorter journey time of two hours and 55 minutes.

The announcement brings to an end more than 50 years of no direct services connecting Huddersfield to our nation's capital.

The arrival of the Grand Central service in 2011 linked stations in Bradford, Halifax, Brighouse, Mirfield and Wakefield with London, but this is the first time since the 1960s that Huddersfield has had its own direct link.

LNER managing director David Horne said: "The services will open up economic benefits for Huddersfield and the surrounding area.

"Better transport links for Huddersfield will create more opportunities for business travel a people wishing to make direct journeys between the capital and the West Yorkshire town, famous for its industrial past and proud textiles heritage."

Colne Valley MP Jason McCartney said: "I'm delighted that LNER is delivering the first direct rail service between Huddersfield and London since the 1960s.

"This is a major boost for businesses, schools, colleges and all local residents in Huddersfield and the Colne Valley who'll now be able to use this direct service and continue the growth of the Northern Powerhouse."

The arrival of the new services will coincide with the first anniversary of the the introduct of LNER's Adzuma trains, which will be in use for the new service.



Huddersfield Railway Station

LNER say their Adzuma trains offer greater reliability and levels of comfort, as well as more seats and improved wifi.

The fleet's green credentials include the use of overhead wires between Leeds and London, although trains will run on diesel power between Huddersfield and Leeds.

The new service is being introduced as part of planned timetable change in May.

Tickets will go on sale from this Friday.

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