

Press Release

**From Councillor Barry Stamp
Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Stafford Constituency**

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Liberal Democrats Call For Extra Capacity on The Stafford to Birmingham Rail Link

Stafford Liberal Democrat's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate has today called for more capacity to be made available on the Stafford to Birmingham rail link.

Speaking at a gathering of Liberal Democrat members in the town, Barry Stamp said he was concerned that lengthy road works planned for the M6 near to Birmingham would cause massive delays for commuters to the City from Stafford and Penkridge and that more local people would probably travel by train to miss the congestion.

"Many local people living in the Stafford and Penkridge area travel daily to work in Birmingham along the M6. At the best of times this road is extremely busy and prone to long delays. The news that major roadworks near to Birmingham are planned to last for many months will only add to this congestion. I believe many people will be tempted to find alternative means of travel including using the rail link from Stafford. However even this is not good with most rush hour trains being overcrowded. Virgin Rail and Central Trains that operate this route must increase their passenger carrying capacity to take into consideration this potential increase in passenger numbers. By just adding two or three carriages to each train will improve the situation. Travelling by rail between Stafford and Birmingham should not only be a relaxing and easy experience but also has many environmental advantages. I believe the current capacity level on this route is far from ideal and puts people off using it to make their journeys. I will be writing to both companies seeking an assurance they will increase the number of passengers they can carry on this route especially while the M6 roadworks are being undertaken," said Barry Stamp.

Further details from Barry Stamp
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