

Avanti West Coast boss to step down

The long-serving boss of Avanti West Coast is to step down later this month, it has been announced.

The company said managing director Phil Whittingham has decided to step down from his role from September 15 “in order to pursue other executive leadership opportunities”.

Mr Whittingham transferred to Avanti West Coast from Virgin West Coast Trains following the rail franchise change process following a successful 23 years in various roles on the railway.

[READ MORE: Click here to sign up to the BusinessLive North West newsletter](#)

Steve Montgomery, First Rail managing director, said: “Having led the team through the challenges presented by the pandemic over the last two years and into the recovery period, Phil leaves with the team ready for the challenges in delivering the future service requirements. I would like to thank Phil and wish him well in the future.”

“For the immediate future, Steve Montgomery will provide executive leadership support to the Avanti West Coast team.”

Avanti West Coast, the operator of intercity rail services on the West Coast Main Line, is a joint venture between FirstGroup and Trenitalia.

The move comes after the company admitted it was unable to run its timetabled services.

The date Mr Whittingham is due to step down, September 15, is when the next series of strikes will further impact the company’s operations.

Avanti cut its services in August in a move which left only one train an hour instead of three between London and Manchester.

READ NEXT:

- [Issa brothers 'laser-focused' on helping staff through cost of living crisis despite profits dip](#)
- [Boohoo co-founder Mahmud Kamani revealed as investor in Frasers Group target MySale](#)
- [Turnover reaches record high at bar and restaurant chain The Alchemist as it adds 400 jobs](#)
- [The Original Factory Shop makes first pre-tax profit since 2019 after £30m sales jump](#)
- [Crown Paints warns of 'another challenging year' as rise in costs, inflation and competition bite](#)