



# Light Rail (UK)

Warrington Business Park.  
Long Lane.

Warrington, Cheshire, England, United Kingdom.

Tel (+44) (0)1925 740060 (0) 07721378223

[www.lightrailuk.com](http://www.lightrailuk.com) e-mail [lightrailuk@aol.com](mailto:lightrailuk@aol.com)



## Professor Michael S. Gibson MSc BA DipTP MRTPI

**Mike Gibson** is Chair of Lightweight Community Transport Ltd, (LCT) a member of the Light Rail Transit Association Tramforward Group and Emeritus Professor of Urban Planning, London South Bank University. As a chartered geographer-planner, he has over 50 years' experience of teaching, management and research, in UK universities, local government and consultancy. He has worked in the USA, the Netherlands, Cyprus, the UAE, Israel, Australia and Turkey and is a published author of books, professional journal articles and local campaigning material.

During the past fifteen years, as a self-employed consultant and researcher, he has focused on policy initiatives to promote the transition to zero carbon housing development and neighbourhood regeneration, with a strong sustainable transport dimension. Having been a LCT board member for several years Mike was elected Chair in 2019. He is increasingly concentrating his (now mainly pro-bono) professional work on projects to promote lightweight rail as a key component of 21st century public transport. He has been a member of the Light Rail Transit Association since 2019.

LCT Ltd is a leasing company established as a Community Benefit Society to raise funds from social investors seeking a balanced mix of environmental impact and financial returns. This capital is used to purchase vehicles, equipment and provide services to enable new lightweight rail services to commence commercial operation. As a Mutual Society LCT is registered with the Financial Services Authority (rather than with Companies House) as a democratic and community-based vehicle for long term social investment. LCT owns a Class 139 railcar which has recently been refurbished and successfully completed testing and trials. The company is now working to lease the vehicle for operation to deliver a new public transport shuttle service either on a branch line, in partnership with Pre-Metro Operations Ltd., or in partnership with a heritage railway company. .

Having long offered advice to organisations aspiring to introduce light rail services, LCT is now also developing its consultancy services and enhancing its campaigning role. A joint project with LR(UK) Group completed in 2021 - *Trams for Bristol* – had a significant positive impact on the ongoing campaign to establish a tram network in the city, as a core component of a sustainable, accessible and affordable public transport system. An equivalent project *Trams for Preston* is now underway to be followed by *Trams For Brighton*.

Mike is currently leading an LRTA TramForward Special Interest Group (SIG) which is developing a 'state of the art' profile of the emerging ULR-VLR vehicle and track technology and its potential role in the development of both extended and new light rail networks in the UK. He presented a well-received report of the work to date *ULR-VLR – a sustainable public transport game-changer* at the July LRTA National Conference.