

Table 2-6: Planning for FCB Operations – Challenges and Best Practice Solutions.

| Challenges | Best Practice Solutions |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Achieving PTO Buy-In</u>: Some PTOs have concerns about becoming involved because of operational and maintenance costs & safety; training requirements; technical performance of H₂ technology • <u>Modifying Existing Depots / Routes</u>: FCBs may need more space in depots; determining routes - not all routes are suitable; different or additional maintenance equipment and skills will be needed • <u>Lack of Information</u>: Bus fuel consumption figures and drive characteristics and power specification details are not as readily available as for their diesel counterparts • <u>Operation and Maintenance for the Long Term</u>: Ensuring the bus maintenance requirements are adequately met; ensuring the existing or new bus contract is competitive and can be maintained over the course of 10 – 15 years • <u>Predicting Availability of Vehicles</u> to ensure route service reliability is maintained - this could be a major issue when zero emission only bus zones come into effect and it is not possible to replace these buses with diesels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Develop indicative costing and opportunities to de-risk for PTOs</u>: Calculate TCO and consider de-risking options for engaging with commercial PTOs • <u>Develop good Partnerships</u>: Involve the local stakeholders early & understand the impact of the new technology on them; engage the FCB supplier through Request for Information (RFI); engage with those who will work on the buses such as drivers and maintenance people and ensure that all are committed to exploring a new technology and making it successful • <u>Become familiar with Local Needs</u>: Review and refresh local needs – routes, depot location, saleability; supply chain requirements; warranties and repair arrangements; understand the issues • <u>Awareness Raising and Training</u>: Plan for this considering bus drivers & maintenance technicians, first responders, bus users etc. (see Table 4-4) • <u>Supply Chain</u>: Plan for an efficient and timely supply of parts; ensure that the FCB manufacturer's supply chain is robust and the suppliers have clear and firm obligations on warranties and repairs • <u>Maintenance</u>: Consider carrying out all or part of the maintenance in-house - this will help you understand the technology more rapidly (see also Table 4-2 on bus maintenance procedures) • <u>Insurance</u>: Engage early with insurers as few have experience of FCBs • <u>Plan for the Future</u>: Consider scalability of solutions to enable options for the future |