



Leading the Way:

How Cambridge City Council
Delivered a Successful
Early Voting Pilot



The Challenge

Cambridge City Council serves one of the UK's most innovative and internationally recognised cities. With a diverse electorate and a reputation for embracing new ideas, the council was selected to participate in the UK Government's flexible voting pilots during the May 2026 local elections.

The pilot enabled electors to cast their vote ahead of polling day at any one of three dedicated voting hubs across the city over three days.

The council needed technology that would allow voters to attend any hub and be verified securely and seamlessly, while maintaining full confidence in the integrity of the process.

The Solution

Cambridge City Council deployed Modern Polling to support the pilot, enabling staff to securely verify voters and manage the election across multiple locations.

The platform allowed electors to be checked in at any hub using QR code scanning and electronic ballot paper issuing, replicating the familiar, secure voting process in a digital format.

"People were genuinely excited about being able to vote early. We had electors queuing before we opened on the first day and throughout the pilot people told us how much they valued having more choice over when and where they could vote. It was one of the most positive experiences I've had in elections"

Vicky Jenner, Electoral Services Manager,
Cambridge City Council

The Results

Modern Polling was vital to successfully delivering one of the UK's most ambitious electoral innovation pilots:



Enabled hub-based voting:

Instant voter verification at any location - not possible with traditional paper registers.



Quick, seamless check-in:

QR code scanning made the process fast and straightforward.



Reduced staff burden:

Paperwork at close of poll was removed, allowing staff to focus on supporting voters rather than administration.



Increased confidence:

Voters and staff quickly became comfortable with the digital process once they understood it mirrored familiar, secure procedures.



Evidence for the future:

The pilot demonstrated early voting can work successfully in practice.

Future-ready elections start here

Modern Democracy is the UK's leading provider of Election Day solutions, combining over a decade of expertise with innovative tech to transform how elections are run.

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