

# Main cyber threats affecting local government

## phishing

Social engineering attack involving trickery

Designed to gain access to systems or steal data

Targeted phishing is “spear phishing”

Variants include “vishing” – attacks by telephone and “smishing” those using SMS or text

## ransomware

Type of software with malicious intent and a threat to harm your data

The author or distributor requires a ransom to undo the damage

No guarantee the ransom payment will work

Ransom often needs to be paid in cryptocurrency

## hacking

Unauthorized access to systems and information

Website attack such as DDOS (distributed denial of service)

Access denied to authorized users

Stolen funds or intellectual property

## environmental threats

Natural threats such as fire, earthquake, flood can cause harm to computers or disrupt business access

Recovery efforts attract scams such as financial fraud

Downtime can lose customers, clients who can't wait