CabinetOffice

UK resilience and the role of scientific advice in emergencies

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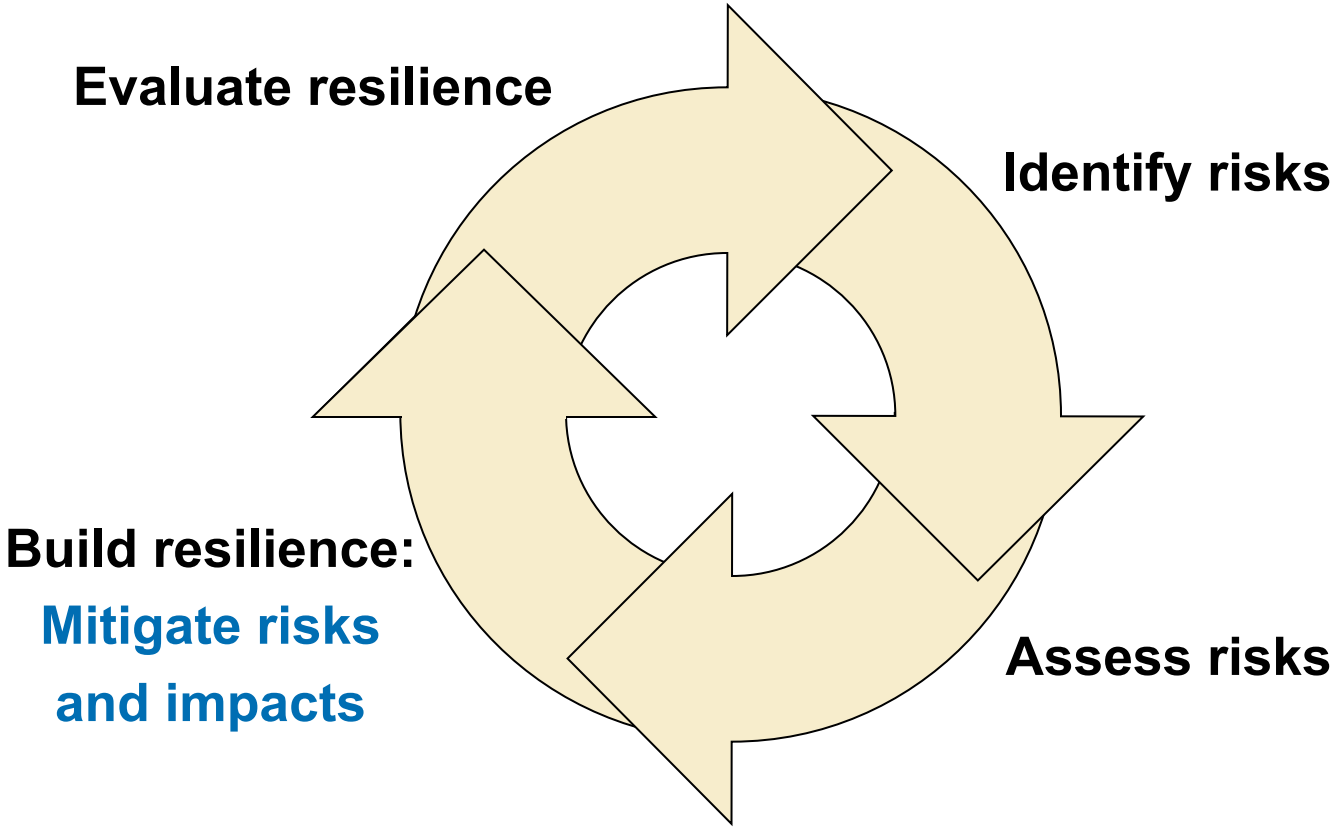
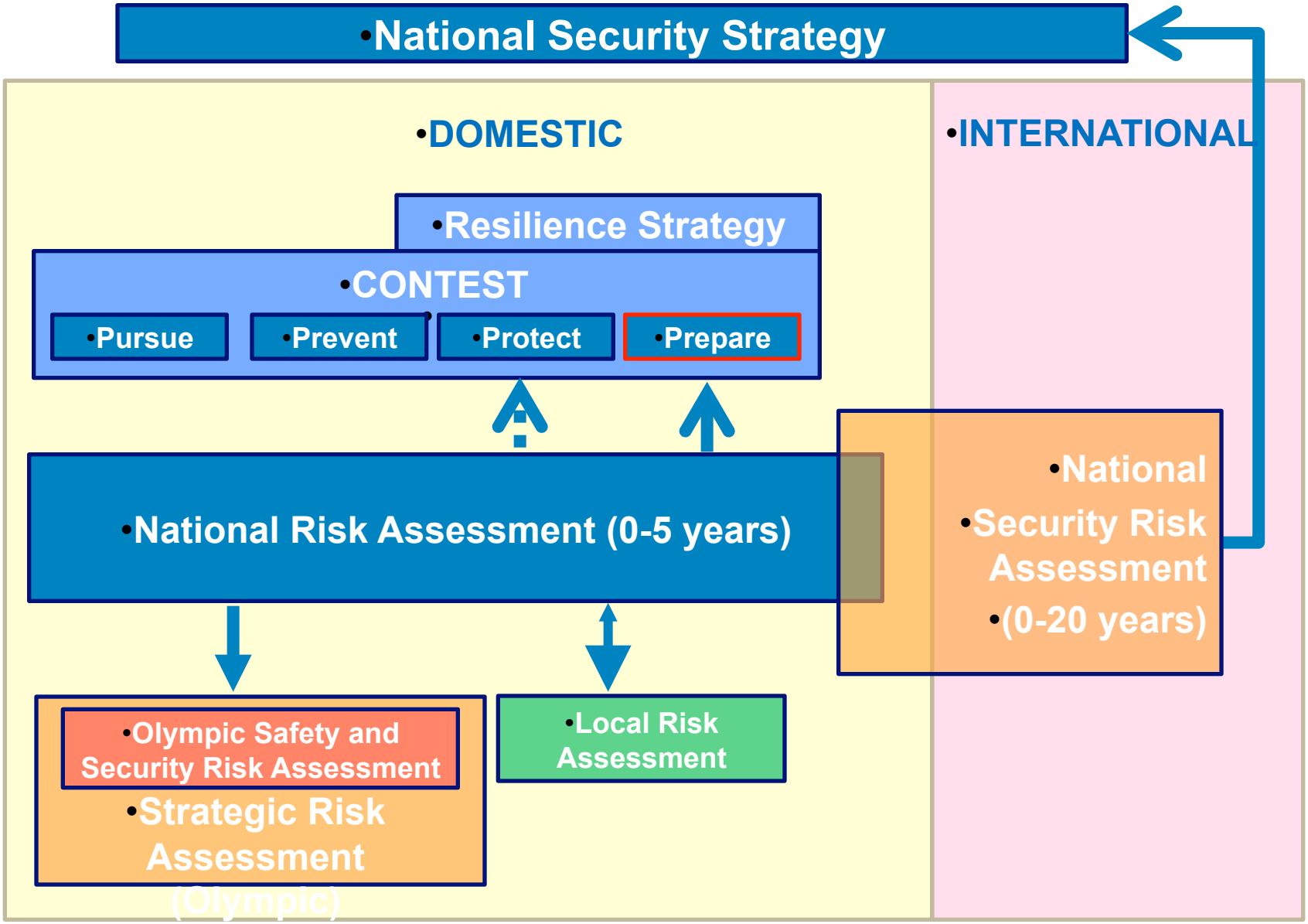
Civil Contingencies Secretariat

Making government work better

The Resilience Planning Cycle



•The National Security Strategy



UK Risk Assessment

- **A strategic assessment:** of the impact and likelihood/plausibility for the malicious and non-malicious risks (threats and hazards) which we could face in the UK in the next 5 years.

- **A prioritisation tool:** which compares a range of the risks we face, relative to each other to inform UK contingency planning decisions.

- **A cross-government assessment:** drawing on subject matter experts from the intelligence, scientific, economic and policy-making communities

- **Guidance for Government and local responders:** to help inform (not dictate)local risk assessments and emergency planning

Risks identification and review

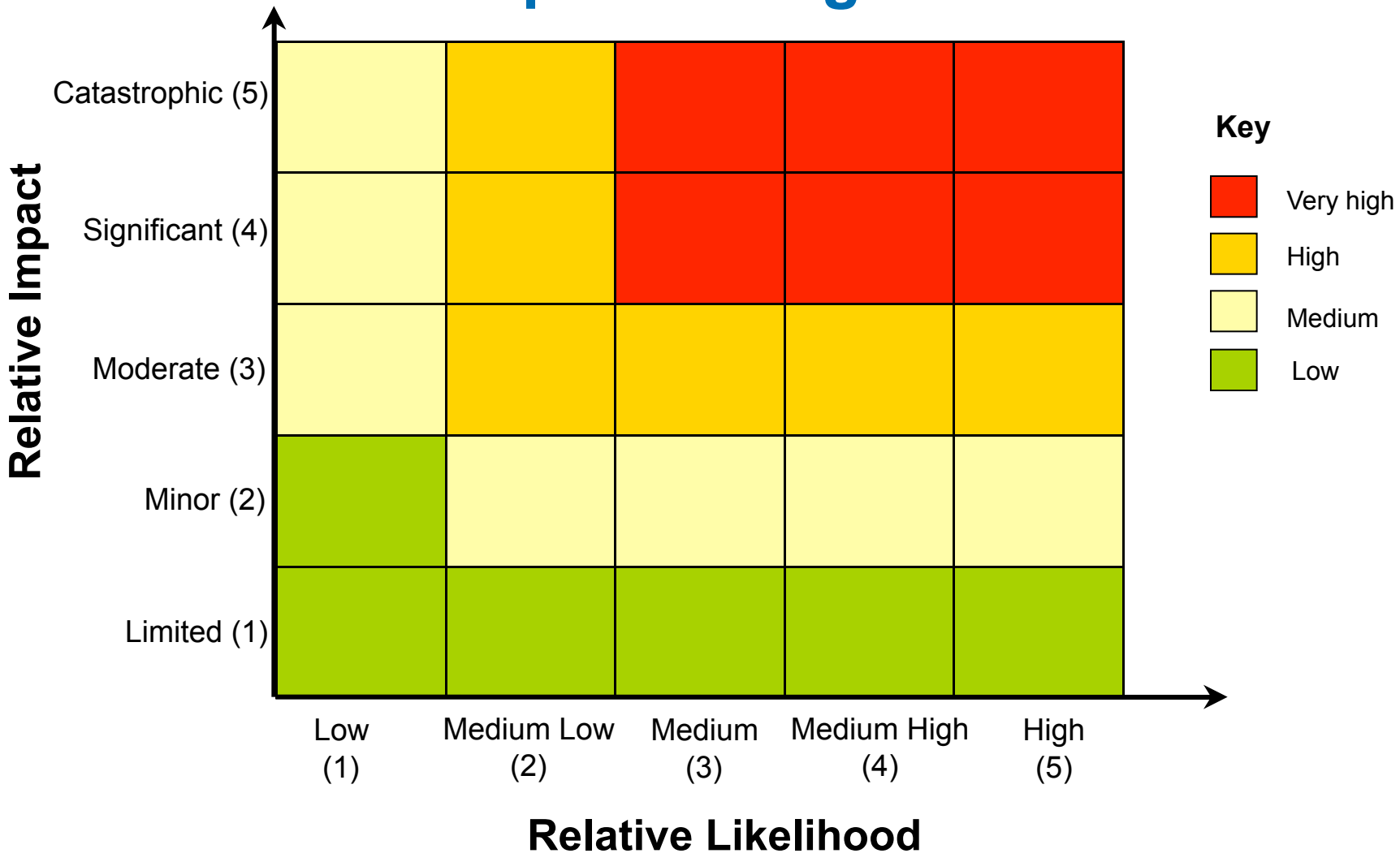
- For each generic risk the Reasonable Worst Case Scenario (RWCS) is identified This represents a reasonably plausible and challenging manifestation of the risk. It's not the:
  - most likely scenario;
  - worst possible scenario; or
  - best case scenario.

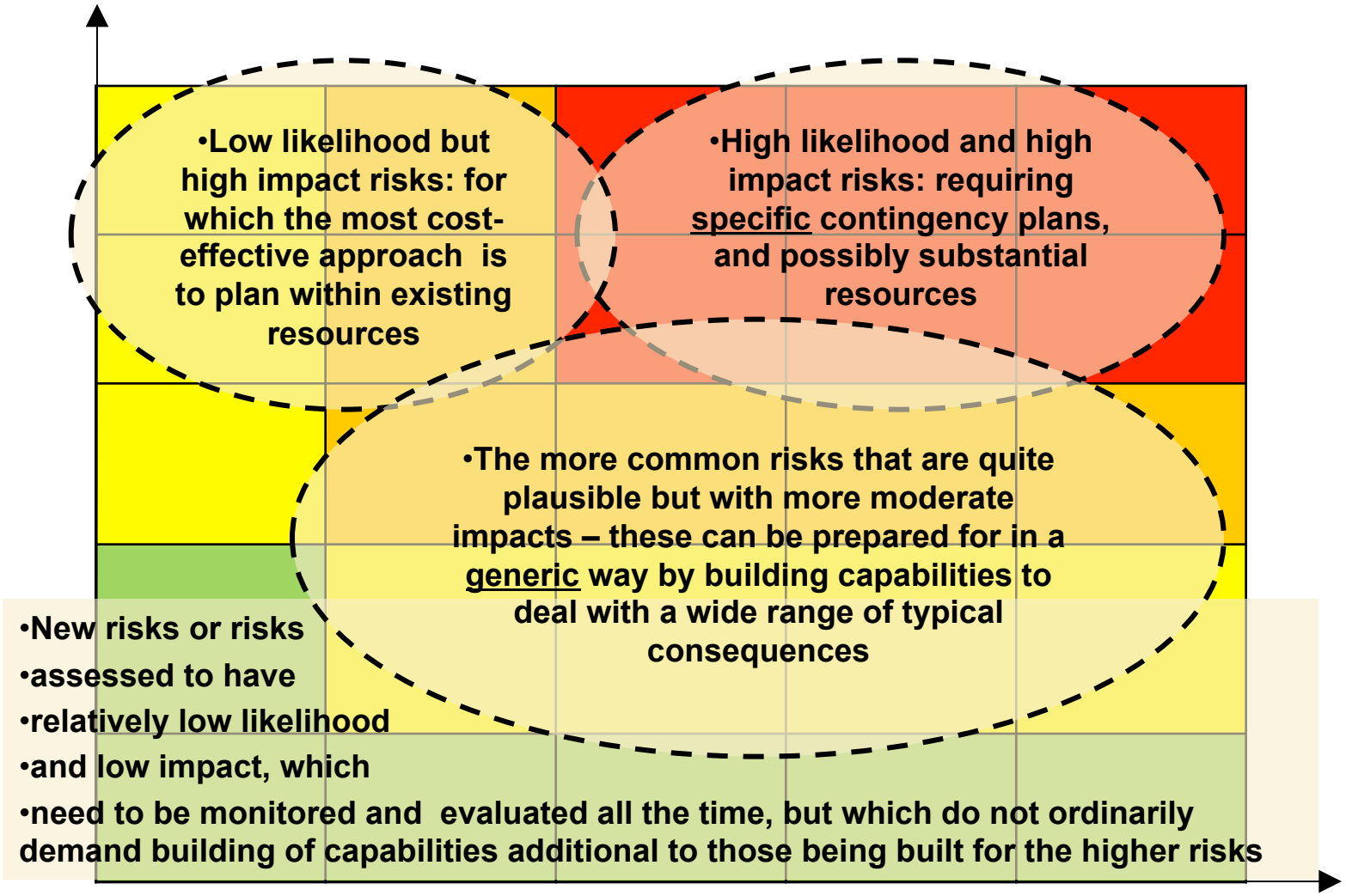
- The RWCS allows risks to be consistently compared and helps ensure a proportionate yet robust perspective of the risk landscape

- A annual light touch review approach is applied for existing risks

- Risks that just miss the thresholds for inclusion are presented in a "Risk under Review" table

Assessment and prioritising risks




•Low likelihood but high impact risks: for which the most cost-effective approach is to plan within existing resources
•High likelihood and high impact risks: requiring specific contingency plans, and possibly substantial resources
•The more common risks that are quite plausible but with more moderate impacts – these can be prepared for in a generic way by building capabilities to deal with a wide range of typical consequences
•New risks or risks
•assessed to have
•relatively low likelihood
•and low impact, which
•need to be monitored and evaluated all the time, but which do not ordinarily demand building of capabilities additional to those being built for the higher risks