**Reflection Exercise:**

**Opposition Roles & COVID-19**

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| **Opposition roles in local government** | **During COVID-19****What is your opposition group doing? What is working well?** |
| **Holding to account roles:*** **Provide ‘checks & balance’ on executive powers – key element of local democracy**
* **Provide challenge & contestability to the development & implementation of council policy**
* **Asking powerful questions which probe controlling group/s policies & delivery**
* **Hold controlling group/s to account publicly & visibly**
* **Holding individual executive members/cabinet members to account**
* **Monitor effective implementation of policy**
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| **Improving policy & decision-making**  |  |
| **Developing alternative policies roles:*** **Propose amendments to council policy**
* **Propose alternative budgets**
* **Developing alternative policies**
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| **Representative & advocacy roles:*** **Ensure controlling group/s work in the best interest of the residents and other communities**
* **Ensure controlling group/s work across the whole authority area**
* **Advocating for the communities the opposition represent**
* **Amplifying voices of parts of community not often heard**
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| **Scrutinising the impact of national government policy on local councils** |  |

**Source: Dr Stephanie Snape, New Leadership Foundation**