**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** |  |
| **Improving policy & decision-making** |  |
| **Developing alternative policies roles:**   * **Propose amendments to council policy** * **Propose alternative budgets** * **Developing alternative policies** |  |
| **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** |  |
| **Scrutinising the impact of national government policy on local councils** |  |

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