Where is the Realism in the State’s ‘Hotchpotch’ Programme?

Lorcan Sirr
Dublin Institute of Technology, lorcan.sirr@dit.ie

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Where is the realism in the state's 'hotchpotch' programme?

The publication of the new programme for government brought few surprises. It is, after all, a document that contains many of its most significant components - and many of its most contentious - from earlier programmes. While the programme is, in many ways, a welcome departure from the previous government's white paper, the real question is whether it will make a difference.

The document weighs in at a hefty 275 pages, which averages out at 242 words of text per page. The programme includes a number of appendices and supplementary material. It seems as though we and everyone else are being asked to look at the programme with a critical eye, in order to assess its value and its contribution to the national conversation.

In any event, it is clear that the programme is a significant step forward. It provides a framework for the delivery of new homes, and an ambitious plan for the provision of affordable housing. The programme also includes a number of specific initiatives, such as the provision of affordable housing for low-income families, and the provision of social housing for those in need.

The programme is a welcome development, but it will only be effective if it is matched by a sustained commitment from government and the broader community. It is clear that the programme is not without its challenges, and that there is much work to be done before it can be fully realised.

Nonetheless, the programme represents a significant step forward, and it is to be hoped that it will pave the way for a more sustainable future for housing in Ireland.