

YFSA Furniture & White Goods Contract**Introduction / Background:**

The Community Furniture Store (CFS) is the main provider of household goods for the York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS). The scheme, which is funded by City of York Council, provides basic furnishing for people in need as a result of a urgent personal circumstances.

CFS provides a range of good quality, affordable furniture. Electrical appliances are purchased new to meet the requirements of the scheme, as is a range of beds and bedroom furniture. CFS adds value-for-money to the scheme by offering people on the scheme the opportunity to also select from its range of pre-owned items such as sofas or bedroom furniture. Pre-owned items are donated to CFS and are made available at prices affordable to (almost) all. By selecting reused furniture alongside new appliances the Council can make smaller grants than would be the case if all of the furniture was bought new. People benefiting from the scheme also have a wider range of choice than would be the case if only new goods were available as this would tend to be a limited range. In practice the actual choice varies from day-to-day depending on what has been donated.

CFS also works with other local suppliers to provide goods and services through the scheme that it cannot directly offer. All installation is carried out by qualified electrical and heating engineers. Carpets and curtains are also bought to order from local suppliers and charged to the Council at cost under the scheme.

The council pay CFS directly for the procurement and installation/delivery of goods taking the requirement for vulnerable cash payments out of the system.

This scheme was originally introduced as a pilot as it was unique at the time in the broad range of what it can offer through a single main supplier. It also provides support to maintain the CFS for all residents and supports other local businesses.

The spend over recent years has been:

2018/19 - £191K

2017/18 - £149K

2016/17 - £171K

2015/16 - £158K

To comply with the Procurement Regulations and to ensure fairness and opportunity this contract now needs to be exposed to competition through a formal tender process for a new contract from 1st April 2020.