

30<sup>th</sup> May 2023



## COLE ASSOCIATES HOST PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE STATE OF THE M&A FUNDING MARKET



Jeremy Cole (far left) co-hosts the panel debate

Jeremy Cole of Cole Associates Corporate Finance co-hosted this morning's lively Pro-Manchester panel discussion on the M&A funding market with Paul Ellaby of international law firm, Trowers Hamlin.

The panel comprised experienced funders covering all aspects of the M&A funding market in the north west (L-R in the photo):

- Jonathan Diggines, Chairman, Funds Mercia Asset Management PLC
- Stuart Bates, Commercial Director, Praetura Commercial Finance.
- Judith McMath, Corporate Development Director, Tosca Debt Capital
- Sion Woodrow, Deputy Head of Corporate, Greater Manchester & Lancashire Corporate Banking, HSBC UK Bank plc

This was the first time the event had been run in person since the pandemic. There was a full turnout by 50+ attendees from the Manchester deal-doing community. The general feeling of the co-hosts and the panel members was that there is a plentiful supply of many different types of funding in the north west to fuel deal activity, without needing to go to London. The panel agreed that the last 9 months have seen an increasing sense of caution by business owners due to the series of external 'shocks to the system' but a general feeling that the M&A funding market in the north west has been remarkably resilient.

For the first time since this annual event started in 2016 ESG was raised as an increasingly important feature of deals.

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