

10th October 2019



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



Jeremy Cole (far left) hosts the panel debate

Jeremy Cole co-hosted this morning's lively Pro-Manchester panel discussion on the M&A funding market with Paul Ellaby of DAC Beachcroft.

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
- Gareth Owen, Director, Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking, Capital Markets, Structured Debt
- David Colclough, Partner, Elysian Capital
- Stuart Bates, Commercial Director, Praetura Commercial Finance.

The general feeling of the co-hosts and the panel members, all of whom were returning, having attended the same event last October was that business owners are cracking on with their growth plans despite the chaotic political backdrop and that there's still a wall of money chasing the best quality deals, with the north west well represented in all parts of the funding market. There was concern about some larger deals being paused due to the geopolitical uncertainties, and the prospect of more challenging times ahead, but a general feeling that the M&A funding market in the north west has been remarkably resilient.

The panel agreed that one of the most crucial drivers for the health of the funding market and wider economy is the prevalence of businesses experiencing real *growth* in revenues, profits, employment etc, citing the positive difference at the current time between the UK economy and German economy.

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