

10th February 2022

JEREMY COLE JOINS PANEL AT PRO.MANCHESTER ANNUAL CORPORATE FINANCE LUNCH



pro-manchester

Jeremy Cole, Senior Partner at Manchester corporate finance boutique Cole Associates Corporate Finance joined the panel of experts at the Pro.Manchester Annual Corporate Finance lunch at the Midland Hotel in Manchester on Thursday 10th February 2022.



Held as a face to face event for the first time since 2019, the event was a celebration of the vibrant deal-doing community in the north west, with 300 people attending.

The panel, hosted by Michael Berger, M&A Director at Together Money faced questions on diversity & inclusion in the M&A advisory sector, the state of the funding market in the north west for private equity, private investor appetite and availability of debt for acquisitions.

Jeremy explained how a couple of his firm's transactions had played out during the last 12 months – the management buy-out of Atlantic Steel Processors Ltd and the sale of Stephenson Halliday Ltd to RSK Group.

The panel were all pleasantly surprised by the buoyancy of the M&A market in the north west during the last 12 months, bolstered by funding availability and by many businesses proving to be more resilient than one might have expected due to the grit and determination of business owners in response to the challenges faced.

The panel's predictions for the next 12 months were generally optimistic, subject to some headwinds in the form of rising inflation and the tail end of the pandemic and supply shortages continuing to affect some businesses.

There was also a discussion about the decreasing need to look to London for funding as Manchester continues to grow as a source of all types of funding for ambitious businesses, from university spin outs to mature businesses.

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