

Corporate Finance Autumn update

The corporate finance market has remained resilient throughout 2026 and is now seeing a surge in activity ahead of the Autumn budget. Despite uncertainty, increasing funder appetite (both debt and equity) and business owners progressing succession plans have supported strong deal activity across the South West and beyond. Against this backdrop, our team has continued to deliver successful outcomes for clients, earning recognition as Corporate Finance Team of the Year and nine shortlist nominations for the Rainmaker Awards in 2026.

We are currently advising on multiple transactions expected to complete ahead of the Autumn Budget, as business owners seek greater certainty around potential tax changes and succession planning considerations.

Activity reflects a broad mix of deal types. Trade sales remain popular as acquisitive businesses look to strengthen market share, expand service offerings and accelerate growth through acquisition (particularly in resilient sectors). Internal succession solutions, including management buyouts (MBOs) and, to a lesser extent, employee ownership trusts (EOTs), continue to attract interest from owners looking to preserve their legacy while providing continuity for employees and clients.

Sector activity has been particularly strong across aerospace and defence, business services and healthcare, with these markets continuing to attract interest from both strategic and financial buyers. We have also seen increased activity in partial exits providing shareholders some cash out, whilst retaining a stake at the same time as investment coming into the business to accelerate growth plans.

Within the technology sector, investor demand remains strong, although there is increasing focus on businesses that can demonstrate sustainable competitive advantages and resilience in an evolving AI landscape.



Autumn Budget 2026

Budget speculation: what could it mean for business owners?

With speculation continuing ahead of the Autumn Budget, some business owners are questioning whether potential tax changes could affect future transactions, succession plans and wealth preservation strategies.

While no measures have been announced, now may be a sensible time to review:

- The timing of a business sale, shareholder distributions or restructuring plans
- Whether transaction models remain viable under different tax scenarios
- Succession and family ownership arrangements
- Long-term wealth planning and inheritance considerations
- Planned funding, valuations and transaction timetables

For those considering a sale, management buyout, employee ownership transition or generational transfer, understanding the potential impact of tax reform can help avoid surprises and ensure flexibility if changes are introduced.

The key message is not to act on speculation alone. Instead, business owners should use this period to review their options, test assumptions and ensure plans remain aligned with both commercial and personal objectives.

Read more:

[Budget speculation puts capital gains tax back in focus for business owners | PKF Francis Clark](#)

You can also join our Autumn Budget webinar, where our specialists will provide analysis of the announcements and discuss the potential implications for business owners, shareholders and those considering a future transaction.

[Sign up now](#)



Recent deals



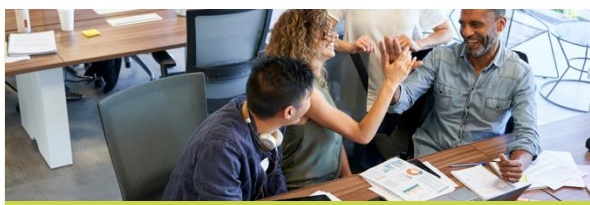
Energy | InfraRed Capital Partners Limited

Sale of Berdon Solar Ltd to British Solar Renewables



Sale | Trecare Group Limited

Sale of Trecare Group Limited to Care Legacy South West Limited



EOT | RH Advertising

RH Advertising shareholders transferred ownership to an employee ownership trust



Due Diligence | Decorum Vending

Decorum Vending acquired the trade of PG Group Vending



Energy | Broadview Energy Limited

Sale of UK ROC / FiT operational onshore wind projects to Alpha Real



Fundraise | YFM

Fundraise by YFM to Southernhay Bidco Limited to expand the business

Client feedback



Due Diligence | BN Care Holdings Limited

Acquisition by BN Care Holdings of the Manor Collection, comprising two Devon care homes



PE Fundraise | Commissioning Technical Services Limited

Disposal of a majority stake in Commissioning Technical Services Limited to Cow Corner



Energy | Marubeni

Sale of a AR6 CfD c20MW RTB onshore wind farm

“The successful completion of the financing marks an important milestone for BSR and reflects our continued confidence in the UK’s clean energy strategy. We greatly valued the expertise, commercial insight, and collaborative approach of the advisory team throughout the process, which helped us achieve a successful outcome and further strengthen our platform for growth.”

Chris Bennett FCA **Finance director**

“It was a pleasure working with the PKF team on the Regenerus investment. They are very personable, with a collaborative approach and were highly committed to the deal. The team gave pragmatic advice and consistently went above and beyond. I look forward to working with them again in the future”

Katie Gilmartin **Investment manager**

Rainmaker awards

Shortlisted nine times:

- Regional corporate finance advisory team of the year
- Transaction services team of the year
- Turnaround team of the year
- Small deal of the year - Bristol Ambulance was sold out of Administration to EMED
- Medium deal of the year - Pole Star purchased Clearwater Dynamics and Route One Newco sale to Employee Ownership Trust
- Out of region deal of the year - Low Carbon sale of Gate Burton DCO solar project to EDF Renewables



Andrew Killick
Changemaker
award



Tom Hicks
Rising star
award

Webinars

Valuations Webinar

Understanding the value of your business can help inform strategic decisions, whether you're planning for growth, considering an acquisition, exploring succession options or preparing for an eventual sale.

If you missed our recent business valuation webinar, you can watch the recording below.

Watch the recording

2026 Autumn Budget Webinar

Thursday 29 October | 12.00pm

Budget and explore what they could mean for you. Our panel of tax specialists will provide expert insight into the measures announced, their potential impact, and the practical considerations for individuals, business owners and advisers.

Sign up now

Register for upcoming events

We run a series of online and in-person events aimed at helping business owners explore the full range of funding and exit strategies available to them. If you are interested in attending one of our events, please contact Lara Bloxham - lara.bloxham@pkf-francisclark.co.uk

How we support our clients

We provide lead advisory corporate finance services including the following:



Company sales & acquisitions



Fundraising (debt & equity)



Employees ownership trusts



Management buyouts



Valuations



Due diligence

Senior expertise with a proven track record

Hands-on senior deal team with a consistently high completion rate, giving you confidence in smooth execution and successful outcomes

Extensive buyer and investor access, both UK and global

Strong connections across strategic buyers, private equity and the PKF Global network, creating competitive tension and driving higher valuations

Sector insight and deal experience on both sides

Credibility with buyers, stronger negotiation positioning and better preparation through first-hand understanding of how transactions work

End-to-end value optimisation and hands-on management

Integrated tax expertise, rigorous preparation and proactive process management to maximise proceeds and keep deals on track to completion

End-to-end due diligence and transaction support

From buy-side and sell-side diligence through to transaction support and integrated tax and cyber insight. We identify risks early which protects value and supports confident decision-making

Contact us



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