LP LEATHES PRIOR

2025 REVIEW:
LP CORPORATE TEAM



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YOUR PARTNER IN SUCCESS

The LP Corporate Team work with you at every stage, from start-up through to incorporation, expansion, fund-raising and ultimately to assisting in your chosen exit route. We believe in building long-lasting relationships with our clients, based on trust, transparency, and communication. Our team take the time to understand your business needs, goals and work closely with you at every stage to ensure that your legal strategy is aligned with your overall business strategy.

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A YEAR OF RESILIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY ✦

2025 was another exciting and active period for Leathes Prior's Corporate Team. Despite continued economic uncertainty and cost pressures across many sectors, the appetite for growth, succession planning, and strategic investment for many of our clients has remained strong.

One of the main things that has struck me this year is the resilience of owner-managed businesses and SMEs. We have worked closely with founders and business leaders on sales, acquisitions, restructures, and investment arrangements, supporting them through transactions that are often as personal as they are commercial. We know that buying or selling a business is a significant milestone for most (and, for some, a once-in-a-lifetime event) and it is a privilege to be able to navigate our clients through that process.

There has been a steady increase in acquisitions. Whilst perhaps more measured than in peak years, well-run businesses and investor groups continue to take a long-term view, pursuing strategic acquisitions that strengthen reach, broaden services, or enhance operational capability.

Forward planning has also been prominent, in light of recent policy changes. Many business owners are considering more carefully their longer-term exit strategy, even where a sale remains some years away. Early advice allows businesses to prepare properly, maximise value, and ensure a smooth transition when the time comes.

Looking ahead, no doubt challenges will remain, but so too will there be opportunities. We hope that businesses that stay adaptable and properly advised will be well-positioned to thrive, and we remain committed to providing the clear, commercially focused advice that helps them do so.

We are sincerely grateful for the trust our clients continue to place in us and are proud to support businesses at every stage of their journey.



ALEX SAUNDERS
Partner & Head of Team

Corporate & Commercial Team
asaunders@leathesprior.co.uk

LP CORPORATE TEAM'S 2025 REVIEW

£123m+

Completed Deal Value

Our team advised on a total aggregate deal value of over £123m, with deals ranging from <£100k to £25 million, working with clients not only across Norfolk & East Anglia but UK wide too.

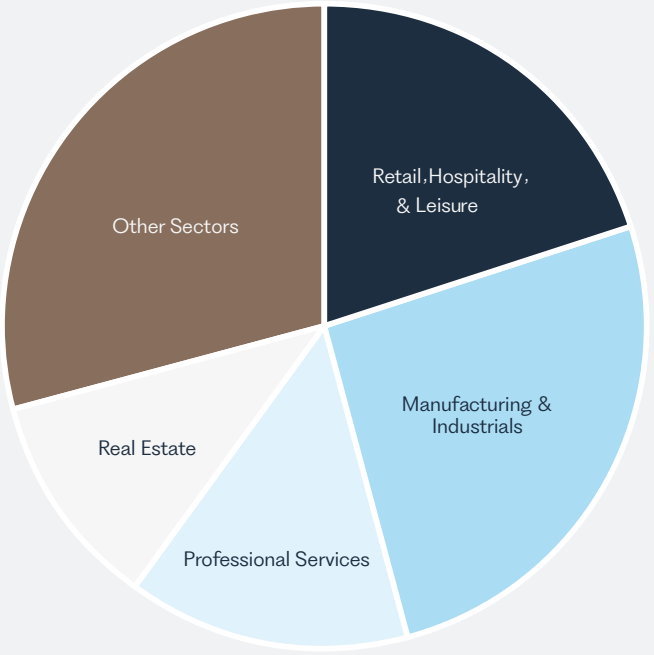
35

Completed Deals

Our team completed 35 deals in 2025 with an average deal size of £3.75 million. In addition to the transactions completed, the team worked on a number of restructurings, investment rounds and employee incentive schemes.

10

Sectors Covered



We supported clients in the following sectors:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing & Industrials
- Professional Services
- Real Estate
- Retail, Hospitality & Leisure
- Sports
- Technology & Media
- Transport, Logistics & Supply Chain

OUR EXPERTISE ✦

Our expert Corporate Team is recognised in East Anglia as a leader in the field, and one of the largest teams in Norfolk by number of qualified solicitors. As a result, we have the resource and expertise to provide the most effective advice and most efficient service levels on the market.

In particular, we have extensive experience in advising sellers on their exit (whether by trade sale, management buy-out, Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) or other form of exit). Our lawyers have an extensive knowledge of various deal structures across a range of different industry sectors, so we are well-equipped to address and resolve any issues which may arise during the course of the transaction. We also regularly act for clients acquiring companies, so have a good understanding of what is required from a buyer's perspective.

YOUR LP CORPORATE TEAM



ALEX SAUNDERS
Partner & Head of Team

Alex has acted for clients on a number of high-value and complex acquisitions, disposals, mergers and management buy-outs, on both the buy and sell side. Alex also has experience working on private equity-financed transactions and leveraged buyouts.

asaunders@leathesprior.co.uk



RICHARD GUTHRIE
Partner

Richard has over 20 years' experience of advising local and national clients on a wide range of corporate matters. He is often praised for his committment to making sure clients get their deal done on time.

rguthrie@leathesprior.co.uk



NINA RYAN
Senior Associate

Nina advises clients on a variety of corporate matters including share and business acquisitions and disposals, and share reorganisations. She has experience working with a vareity of clients from budding start-ups to publicly listed companies.

nryan@leathesprior.co.uk



JACK HORWITZ
Senior Associate

Jack provides professional and high-quality advice to clients on a variety of corporate matters including acquisitions and disposals, equity investment, and corporate restructuring. He also has specialist knowledge on data protection issues.

jhorwitz@leathesprior.co.uk

YOUR LP CORPORATE TEAM



SAM POULTER
Associate

Sam advises clients on a range of corporate matters including acquisitions and disposals, and shareholders' agreements. He has a particular interest in assisting new businesses with matters such as deciding the most appropriate corporate structure for their business.

spoulter@leathesprior.co.uk



MILAN PANDIT
Solicitor

Milan specialises in providiing high-quality advice on complex company-related matters and has been involved in a number of mergers, acquisitions, and sales acting for both buyers and sellers. Milan has a particular interest in companies operating in the healthcare sector.

mpandit@leathesprior.co.uk



LUCY MATTHEWS
Solicitor

Lucy specialises in providing clients with tailored and pragmatic advice on a wide range of commercial matters to help them achieve their commercial objectives. She also supports the Corporate Team with commercial elements of corporate transactions.

lematthews@leathesprior.co.uk



HUGO PERSAD
Trainee Solicitor

Hugo is a Trainee Solicitor, specifically supporting the Corporate Team and their clients. He works closely with all members of the team on mergers, acquisitions, disposals and restructures. Hugo particularly enjoys working with clients on management buyout arrangements.

hpersad@leathesprior.co.uk

CASE STUDY: PHOENIX SUPPORT LIMITED

Leathes Prior advised Phoenix Support Limited on its transition to an employee-owned business under an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) structure. The transaction was led by Alex Saunders, Partner and assisted by Hugo Persad, Trainee Solicitor both in the LP Corporate Team.

Phoenix Support Limited began in 1988 with Lorna O'Shea, the owner, whose passion for delivering personalised care helped lay the foundation for a business that would grow to be a valued part of the local community. Phoenix Support Ltd provides compassionate, person-centred support across Maidstone, West Malling, East Malling, and neighbouring villages for individuals with learning disabilities, autism, mental health needs, and dementia.

Having explored various exit options, Lorna believed that becoming an EOT was the best way for Phoenix Support Limited to maintain its longstanding employee-focused culture and ensure that the vision of the business continues.

Lorna said of the transaction: *"The EOT process requires collaboration and transparency. It was important to us to have legal advisers who were not only knowledgeable but also pragmatic and aligned with our goals. Alex Saunders and Hugo Persad played a key role throughout. Their guidance and insight made the process both smooth and rewarding. I cannot praise or recommend Leathes Prior high enough. Thank you for your support."*

Alex Saunders said: *"We are delighted to assist Lorna and the employees on the transition of Phoenix Support to employee ownership. This structure is well-suited to ensure that the company's vision, together with its employee and community-focused culture, can be continued in the long term. I will be excited to see how the business continues to grow and develop under employee ownership."*



TRANSACTION:
Employee Ownership Trust

SECTOR:
Healthcare

TEAM:

ALEX SAUNDERS
Partner

HUGO PERSAD
Trainee Solicitor

CASE STUDY: BAWDESWELL GARDEN CENTRE

Leathes Prior acted for Charmbeck Limited on the sale of Bawdeswell Garden Centre to the Cherry Lane Group. Assisting on the sale from Leathes Prior were Jack Horwitz from our Corporate Team, Lucy Whipps from our Commercial Property Team, and Gareth Stevens from our Employment Team.

Bawdeswell Garden Centre has become one of Norfolk's most cherished garden centres, offering a wide range of products and services. Cherry Lane, also a family-run business prides itself on offering value, quality and a personal approach throughout all 18 of their centres. The acquisition of Bawdeswell Garden Centre helps to compliment this mission, with their already implemented family values.

A spokesperson for Cherry Lane said, *"This is more than an acquisition, it's the next chapter of a story built on shared values".*

Sally Robertson, Director of Charmbeck Limited, said *"Leathes Prior were excellent for the sale of the family business being sold after a bereavement. Selling the business as a going concern and saving jobs, was our objective. It was an emotional sale and needed the use of several areas of expertise in Leathes Prior to assist our needs. Lucy Whipps went above and beyond at one point. Diligent, professional and no time wasting. Great service. Thank you."*

Jack Horwitz, Senior Associate said *"We are delighted to have been able to advise Charmbeck Limited on the sale of Bawdeswell Garden Centre. It was a pleasure to work with all of the directors, but special mention must go to Sally Robertson and Kevin Morris, as well as the company's accountant, David Baxter, for their hard work in getting this transaction over the line. We look forward to seeing Bawdeswell Garden Centre continue to thrive as part of the Cherry Lane group in the future."*



TRANSACTION:
Business Sale

SECTOR:
Retail, Hospitality & Leisure

TEAM:

JACK HORWITZ
Senior Associate

LUCY WHIPPS
Partner - Commercial Property

GARETH STEVENS
Partner - Employment

CASE STUDY: HATFIELD INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Leathes Prior acted for Hatfield Investments Limited on the sale of Crossways Residential Home. Involved in the sale from Leathes Prior were Sam Poulter and Hugo Persad from our Corporate Team, Lucy Whipps from our Commercial Property Team, and Gareth Stevens from our Employment Team.

Crossways Residential Home is a 24-bed care home located in Sheringham which offers person-centered support tailored to each individual's needs, with a focus on dignity, comfort, and well-being.

Following the sale, Steve Booth said:

"I would like to commend Leathes Prior, who acted on our behalf, for their expert advice and support. Particularly, I would like to thank Sam Poulter, my main contact, for bringing together and "Quarterbacking" the expertise of the entire team, all of a successful conclusion."

Commenting on the deal, Sam said:

"It was an absolute pleasure to assist Steve and Sandra with the transfer of their business, which they have devoted so much time, care, and attention to over the years. They worked with us at all times in good humour, which always makes a matter enjoyable to work on. Their determination to achieve the best for the business's staff and residents, and to ensure that the service will continue to provide the high levels of care post-completion, which they themselves have upheld, was clear from the outset and never wavered."



TRANSACTION:
Business Sale

SECTOR:
Healthcare

TEAM:

SAM POULTER
Solicitor

HUGO PERSAD
Trainee Solicitor

LUCY WHIPPS
Partner - Commercial Property

GARETH STEVENS
Partner - Employment

CASE STUDY: SU-BRIDGE PET SUPPLIES LTD

Leathes Prior acted for Su-Bridge Pet Supplies Ltd in the acquisition of four pet food brands (Autarky, Chudleys, Gelert and Gusto) from United Petfood UK Limited which were previously acquired from Gold Line Feeds UK in 2022.

Richard Guthrie, Partner and Jack Horwitz, Senior Associate, in the Leathes Prior Corporate Team supported client Su-Bridge Pet Supplies Ltd with the acquisition.

SECTOR:
Manufacturing & Industrials

TEAM:

RICHARD GUTHRIE
Partner

JACK HORWITZ
Senior Associate



TRANSACTION:
Business Acquisition

CASE STUDY: SEABREEZE CARAVAN PARK

Leathes Prior acted for Seabreeze Caravan Park on the sale of the Seabreeze & Seafield holiday parks in Hembsy to Monte Carlo Parks and Luxury Home Lifestyle Group, who own more than 20 residential and leisure parks across the UK.

Nina Ryan, Senior Associate in the Leathes Prior Corporate Team, supported our client with the sale, along with the support of Lucy Whipps & Alison Beales from the LP Commercial Property Team.

SECTOR:
Retail, Hospitality, & Leisure

TEAM:

NINA RYAN
Senior Associate

LUCY WHIPPS
Partner - Commercial Property

ALISON BEALES
Associate - Commercial Property



TRANSACTION:
Business Sale

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