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# MANCHESTER RESHUFFLE AS AVISON YOUNG COMPLETES GVA TAKEOVER

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Avison Young has completed its takeover of property consultancy GVA. In Manchester - the only city in the UK outside London where Avison Young has an existing office - its senior team has also been confirmed.

The deal was agreed in November and means Avison Young is now among the top five commercial real estate advisory businesses in the UK, with the two combining under the one unified brand.

In Manchester, Mark Williams, who has been a principal at Avison Young since 2017, becoming managing director for the combined operation.

Chris Cheap, formerly head of Manchester for GVA, takes on a broader national role as managing director of UK regions, as well as becoming a principal and leading the office agency business in Manchester.

Williams said: "Both Avison Young's and GVA's teams in Manchester have deep roots in the local market. The bringing together of the offices will provide a superb opportunity to provide best in market advice both in the transactional markets and consultancy arena."

Cheap added: "While I continue to be based in Manchester and advise clients locally, I am excited about the opportunity to work across our national expanded network of offices and underpin Avison Young's commitment to the UK regions."

The combined Avison Young operations now have 19 offices and 1,600 employees in the UK alone.

Credit Suisse and KPMG LLP acted as Avison Young's financial advisers in the acquisition of GVA. Gowling WLG (UK), DLA Piper LLP (US and UK) and Stikeman Elliott LLP (Canada) served as Avison Young's legal advisers.

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