

2010: THE END OF A TWENTY-FIVE YEAR CAMPAIGN

On 31st March 2010, Mersey Basin Campaign formally concluded after 25 action-packed years. The decision to end the Campaign had been taken by its governing Campaign Council 18 months previously so as to enable an orderly exit. The decision had not been taken lightly and had followed extensive discussion and debate with the key partners, led by the Government appointed Campaign Chair, Professor Peter Batey. The spirit in which the decision was made was one of achievement, success and celebration. The Campaign's final conference in September 2009 was a memorable and fitting marker of the Campaign's achievements and a look into the future. The final edition of SOURCE magazine captured lessons and perceptions.

The Council, partners and staff worked hard over the Campaign's last months to secure a worthwhile legacy. This website is part of it. Every effort was made to complete projects and initiatives or hand these one to appropriate partner organisations in the region. Great care was taken to support Campaign staff in finding new jobs appropriate to their skills and experience and nearly all of them found worthwhile jobs...continuing, in their different ways, to work for the sustainable development of Northwest England.

The final meeting of the Campaign's Council took place at our offices at Fourways House in Manchester's Northern Quarter on March 11th 2010. A party for staff, former staff and friends of MBC followed on March 26th. March 31st was the last day.

The Campaign's Healthy Waterways Trust lived on...as its trustees believed that it still had an important role. Its quiet work as a broker of partnerships dealing with difficult issues was viewed as being especially valuable.

Buckminster Fuller memorably wrote: "...there is one outstandingly important fact regarding spaceship earth and that is that no instruction book came with it..." The same could be said about the complex partnership that was the Mersey Basin Campaign. There was no instruction book and inevitably there were both triumphs and disasters. But it was worth it.

Walter Menzies, Chief Executive