



## Record Low For Road Fatalities in 2008

Provisional figures for 2008 released by Safer Roads for Cumbria revealed that the county had the lowest road fatality figure for many years with serious injury casualties also recording a reduction.

Last year saw 30 fatalities on Cumbria's roads compared to 45 fatalities in 2007 and 59 in 2006. In common with previous years the majority of those dying were local. Twenty five of those who died were county residents compared to five from outside Cumbria. 2008 also saw 238 serious injury casualties compared with 274 the previous year. Slight injuries came in at 1792 compared to 2099 for 2007.

County Councillor Alan Clark, Cabinet member with responsibility for road safety, commented: "The combined killed and serious injury casualties by which the county is judged, have been falling since 2003 and in 2007 we came in under the Government's 2010 target for Cumbria three years early.

"What is significant about the 2008 statistics is that for the first time we have significantly reduced the number of fatalities.

"To realise a 35% drop over the previous year's fatal figures is a major success and demonstrates what can be achieved," Councillor Clark added. "For many years fatalities averaged out at around 50 killed each year and this represents a major break in that loop."

Chris Broadbent, Safer Roads for Cumbria Road Safety Co-ordinator, said: "Although these figures are provisional and may change slightly when audited by the Department for Transport, they represent a major achievement in the county's attempts to reduce the tragedy of road fatalities and highlight what can be achieved by strong partnership working.

"There is, however, no room for complacency. These figures demonstrate that Cumbria's activities are paying dividends, but we must build on what is becoming a positive and dynamic approach involving a broad spectrum of organisations," he added.

End

Note to editors:

Key partners within the SRFC partnership and other information can be found on the web site at [www.saferroads4cumbria.org.uk](http://www.saferroads4cumbria.org.uk).

It is estimated that each fatality costs £1.5 million and the reduction of 15 from last year's figures represents a saving to the county of £22.5million.