

REB24/2016 – 29/2016 & 31/2016

Update from Peter Milton, Head of Cultural Services:

IMT gave the Registration Service a demonstration of the MARS software package on 5 October. The demonstration went well and MARS will provide a replacement to the current system (SMACS) as well as providing some enhancements which include automating outstanding fee and notice of marriage processes and sending automatic customer emails.

The first phase of MARS (Guildford and Leatherhead area ceremonies) is due to be handed over to the service at the end of October with a view to going live mid November. The second phase will include migrating the Weybridge area ceremonies and this is expected to be delivered in December.

The MARS Project Board were informed on 10 October that currently IMT only have the development resources up until December 2016, which means that Phase Three of MARS:-

- the public being able to book and pay for their ceremony online;

is currently in jeopardy, as are the additional enhancements that are required to ORBIT which will considerably improve the customer experience.

This is obviously a considerable concern to the Registration Service, and there will be a need, working with IMT, to try to find additional funding to complete the MARS project and make the necessary enhancements to ORBIT.

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