

Contribution–Access Network (CAN)

Policy and Institutional Overview

Purpose

CAN is a coordination framework designed to **complement** existing monetary, fiscal, and regulatory systems. It enables improved allocation of essential resources through verified **contribution**, behavioural **reliability**, and contextual **human needs**.

CAN is not intended to replace money. It provides a **parallel coordination layer** that strengthens social resilience and institutional legitimacy in digitally mediated economies — and acts as a bridge toward **direct value handling**.

Why this matters now

Digitally mediated economies are increasingly shaped by AI, platforms, and network effects. Money remains essential, but it compresses multiple dimensions of reality into a single scalar price signal. This can reduce allocative accuracy in public services and can undermine legitimacy where citizens perceive market dynamics as misaligned with social needs.

CAN provides a structured way to recognise **direct value** (contribution), **operational trust** (reliability), and **human context** (care) as first-class signals in allocation decisions.

Relationship to CBDC and Digital Public Infrastructure

CAN is designed to operate **on top of** CBDC and digital identity infrastructures.

CBDC platforms can provide:

- Secure settlement layers (where monetary settlement is appropriate)
- Identity verification hooks
- Auditability and policy-relevant observability
- Optional programmability under clear legal constraints

Within CAN, this infrastructure supports transparent access management, conditional service delivery, and accountable governance. CAN can therefore be a meaningful way to use CBDC infrastructure beyond payments — as a bridge toward regulated forms of **direct value handling**.

Governance Model

CAN uses federated, transparent governance structures:

- Local/sectoral councils
- Rotating leadership
- Public audit trails

- Appeals and redress pathways
- Independent evaluation

No permanent central authority is embedded in the system design.

Policy Applications (pilot-first)

- Social and affordable housing allocation
 - Energy support schemes
 - Public transport access
 - Lifelong learning / reskilling
 - Health and care coordination
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Risk management

- Algorithmic bias → independent audits, fairness testing, human oversight
 - Data security → encryption, least privilege, incident reporting
 - Elite capture → rotating governance, transparency, time-limited mandates
 - Function creep → legal boundaries, separation of powers, data minimisation
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Evaluation framework (examples)

- Allocation accuracy and service targeting
- Equity and inclusion indicators
- Participation and retention rates
- Complaints/appeals resolution time
- Public trust and satisfaction measures
- System resilience metrics (uptime, stress tests)