

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	The Perspective: Policy and Geography	2
	Human Geography and Policy Analysis	3
	The Aim	5
	The Methods	5
	The Structure of the Book	6
	Literature	7
2	A Policy Perspective on Shrinkage	11
	Why Do Places Shrink?	12
	Planning for Decline	13
	A Policy Perspective on Shrinkage	14
	What Is Policy?	15
	Distinctions in Policy Analysis	15
	Policies and Ideas	16
	Understanding the Thought-Content of Policies	17
	Analytical and Cognitive Paradigms	17
	Normative Frameworks and Value Judgements	18
	Prescriptions for Action	18
	Policies in a Shrinking Context	19
	Literature	20
3	Rural Shrinkage in a Nordic Welfare State	23
	Rural Shrinkage	24
	Rural Depopulation in Sweden	25
	Uneven Population Change	26
	Context-Dependent Consequences of Shrinkage	28
	The Devolved Welfare State	30
	Local Governments in Focus	31
	Context Dependent Policy Implications	33
	Literature	33

4	Policy Implications of Rural Depopulation	37
	The Shrinking Community	38
	Shrinkage from a Public-Sector Perspective	40
	Implications for Welfare Supply	41
	Implications for Planning and Development	45
	Implications for the Municipal Organisation	47
	Implications for Politics and Democracy	48
	Context-Dependent Consequences	48
	Literature	50
5	Why Do They Fail?	53
	Conditions for Failure	55
	The Potential Benefits of Growth	56
	The Growth Norm	56
	The Goal Dependency of Growth Policy	60
	Stigma and Personal Sentiments	61
	A Lack of Professional Support	62
	A New Terminology Is Needed	63
	Literature	65
6	Arguments for a Local Adaptation Policy	69
	Local Adaptation Policy: A Definition	71
	Arguments for an Explicit Local Adaptation Policy	71
	Assessing Local Adaptation Policies	75
	Interest Groups as a Conflict Base	75
	Location as a Conflict Base	76
	Values as a Conflict Base	77
	Policy Tools of Local Adaptation	79
	Inter-municipal Cooperation	79
	Civil Society Cooperation	80
	Raising Taxes	81
	Demolishing Buildings	82
	Centralising Services	82
	Where Are All the Policy Tools?	83
	Literature	84
	Literature	87
	Index	91